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ARISE SIR KENNY
THE KING BECOMES A KNIGHT



MO SALAH
"THIS IS MY HOME NOW"

TRENT
HIS SENSATIONAL STORY SO FAR



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Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine

NABY KEITA
"I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY IN THIS TEAM"





18/19 TRAINING

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LIVERPOOL

The lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening at home and abroad

FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current stars, the stats that matter plus blasts from the past

CLUB

Reaching out to communities at home and abroad, plus Anfield updates and the latest awesome official merchandise



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WELCOME HOME

Fine weather at home (for more than a couple of days, for a nice change) and a riveting World Cup finals tournament over in Russia… What an agreeable summer it's been so far. Anfield, meanwhile, has been looking super-sexy in the sunshine, and Reds supporters will soon be noticing some extra improvements to the stadium and its immediate surroundings for the forthcoming 2018/19 season. You can read all about it elsewhere in this issue but for now, let's just enjoy the view!



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WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.



Kenny Dalglish salutes the crowd last season when the Centenary Stand was renamed in his honour – ahead of a match against whom? **Answer on page 98**

The King is recognised by the Queen, plus other Reds honours

LIVERPOOL



KNIGHT FEVER

Where once we watched Sir King Kenny play... This one's for Bill, Bob and Jock, declares Reds legend upon his knighthood

Sir Kenny Dalglish has paid tribute to all those who have played a part in his life after he received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours last month.

Recognised for his contribution to football, the 67 year-old said he was "hugely grateful" for the award and immediately dedicated it to three managerial legends.

"Obviously it was for others with more education and knowledge than myself to decide whether or not I deserved a knighthood and it goes without saying that I am hugely grateful to them for the decision that they have made," said Kenny.

"All I can say is that from my own point-of-view I am definitely no more deserving of an accolade like this than Jock Stein, Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley were. I am just fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time and I would like to dedicate this honour to them because without the standards that they set at Glasgow Celtic and Liverpool, individuals like myself would not have been able to thrive as much as we did."

In a hugely successful career in football for over 20 years, the man known by Kopites as 'The King' won major honours with both clubs. Internationally he remains Scotland's most capped player with 102 appearances.

During his managerial tenure at Liverpool he secured three top-flight titles, including a League and FA Cup double in 1986 – the first person to achieve this feat as a player-manager. A Premier League title followed with Blackburn Rovers in 1995.

"The most important thing to stress is that this honour is not a reflection of myself," he continued. "It is a reflection of everyone who has played a part in my life and my career. Nobody achieves anything alone, especially in football, and in my case any success I have enjoyed has been due to the contributions made by my family, the players, coaches and managers that I was fortunate enough to work with, and the supporters who backed me. This instance is no different.

"The enjoyment that I have derived from being involved in football for as long as I have is outstripped only by the sense that I've been hugely fortunate to have the right people around me at all times. None more so than my family whose support allowed me to focus on playing and managing, sometimes to the detriment of their own aspirations and ambitions. They share this honour as much as anyone else because without them none of this would have been possible.

"Similar sentiments apply to those in football who

believed in me sufficiently to give me opportunities and who backed me on and off the pitch in a multitude of ways. At Milton Bank Primary, High Possil Secondary, Glasgow Boys, Cumbernauld United, Celtic, Liverpool, Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United I was fortunate to be supported and accompanied by individuals who gave me a chance to do my job to the best of my ability, whether as a player or a manager. I have always appreciated the roles that they played in my life and that applies even more on this day as it does on any other."

Kenny's knighthood is also recognition for his contribution off the pitch in support of the Hillsborough families and The Marina Dalglish Appeal. He has helped to raise over £10 million to improve cancer care across Merseyside – one of the achievements recognised by FSG's John Henry, Tom Werner and Mike Gordon in their own tribute: "Kenny Dalglish is a man whose influence and impact have transcended his own prodigious individual talent.

"His accomplishments in football – and the dignified manner with which he conducted himself on and off the pitch while reaching those accomplishments – make him worthy of this honour in isolation.

"But Kenny Dalglish's extraordinary achievements are not limited solely to football. He has worked tirelessly for charity in Liverpool and across the north of England and Scotland, and he has raised substantial funds for his family's charity, The Marina Dalglish Appeal. This work in many ways will be a legacy that transcends any title.

"And it seems fitting to finish by recognising Marina and the children specifically. Kenny Dalglish is first and foremost a family man, and we as owners have been blessed to get to know the entire Dalglish family during our tenure. Without question Kenny will be accepting this fantastic honour in the names of his entire family.

"All of us are delighted and overwhelmed that Kenny is being recognised in this extraordinary way; it will be our distinct honour to address him as 'Sir Kenny' the next time we are together."

Dalglish also thanked those who nominated him for this honour: "Last but by no means least, I would like to express my gratitude to those who nominated me for a knighthood. I don't know exactly what the process is, but obviously something like this couldn't happen unless someone puts your name forward so 'thank you' to whoever it was who holds me in sufficient esteem that they believe me worthy of such an accolade.

"It is extremely humbling to have people who think of you in this way."







ARISE SIR KENNY...

Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones: "Kenny Dalglish showed truly exceptional pastoral care to the Hillsborough families from the day of the disaster... He put their needs above his own reputation. The global culture of football has many negative features. His honour sends out a signal that the world of football and society at large, value his humanitarian and compassionate leadership which are an antidote to the values of fame and fortune so often associated with football today. He is truly an exceptional role-model."

Metro Mayor Liverpool City Region, Steve Rotheram: "It is appropriate recognition of Kenny Dalglish's unparalleled playing and managerial career in football, and of his many charitable efforts over the years... He is a worthy recipient of this honour – and I look forward to taking my place in the 'Sir' Kenny Dalglish stand in the future."

BBC presenter and former Everton striker, Gary Lineker: "I am thrilled to see that Kenny Dalglish has been knighted. No-one in football is more deserving. A truly great footballer and a wonderfully empathetic human being. Arise Sir King Kenny."

LFC HONOURS LIST



Sir John W Smith CBE and knighthood
"We're a very, very modest club. We don't talk, we don't boast, but we're very professional..." Chairman from 1974 to 1989, director from 1971 to 1995, Sir John was also a JP and a Doctor of Law.



Ian Callaghan MBE
Got his medal as early as 1974 when he was also named the Football Writers' footballer of the year. Never mind Carra – as Bill Shankly once said, "If there were eleven Ian Callaghans at this club there would never be any need to put up a team-sheet."



Bill Shankly OBE
Recognised in November 1974, four months after retiring as manager. In his biography of the great man, Stephen F Kelly writes: "[Bill] made the trip to Buckingham Palace with Nessie. It was a rare day-out for them. It was another national honour, to add to his appearance years earlier on television's *This Is Your Life*."



Bob Paisley OBE
Like Shanks, it's amazing to think that Bob wasn't knighted for his services to football. Six-times manager of the year, he received his OBE in 1977 after Liverpool's European Cup triumph.



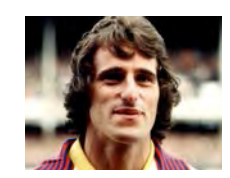
Tommy Smith MBE
The 'Anfield Iron' was honoured in 1978 after a 16-year association with the Reds that culminated with the glory that was Rome and his unforgettable goal against Borussia Moenchengladbach in the final.



Emlyn Hughes OBE
'Crazy Horse' had been gone from Liverpool for less than a year when, in March 1980, he became an Officer of the Most Excellent Order. Legend has it, he feigned an excuse for not attending the original ceremony when he heard it was Prince Philip and not the Queen herself handing out the gongs.



John Toshack OBE
Tosh was recognised in the early 80s after he'd guided Swansea City to the top flight. He's always said that his education under Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley was priceless.



Ray Clemence MBE
After 14 years and 665 games for LFC which yielded a mantlepiece packed with medals, Clem received his MBE in 1981 shortly before heading south to join Tottenham.



Kevin Keegan OBE
'Mighty Mouse' entered the orders of chivalry as a Southampton star in 1982, five years after he'd helped Liverpool to their first European Cup.



Kenny Dalglish MBE
The King was first recognised in early 1985, prior to his appointment as player-manager. Wife Marina was later awarded the MBE for her services to charity too.



Ian Rush MBE
Rushie celebrated in 1996 by breaking the post-war FA Cup scoring record. In Liverpool's 7-0 fourth-round win over Rochdale he came off the bench to score the fifth and his 42nd in the competition, overtaking Denis Law's best of 41.



Peter Beardsley MBE
Beardo was back with Newcastle United by the time he received his gong, but his splendid spell at Anfield between 1987 and 1991 clearly contributed.



John Barnes MBE
John Charles Bryan Barnes, to give the magnificent Reds winger his full name, was among the names on the Queen's birthday honours list in June 1998 along with World Cup winner Geoff Hurst, cricketer Alec Stewart, golfer Colin Montgomerie, boxer Lennox Lewis and athletes Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell.



Roger Hunt MBE
The Sixties goal-machine had always been a knight to the fans, and in 2000 he was recognised for his role in England's World Cup-winning squad along with Alan Ball, George Cohen, Nobby Stiles and Ray Wilson.



Gary McAllister MBE
Gary Mac got the nod in late December 2001 after his heroics during the treble-winning cup campaign under the guy below...



Gerard Houllier OBE
In July 2003 he was honoured for putting the club back on the map – winning six trophies in three seasons. He's also been awarded France's *Legion d'honneur*.



Steven Gerrard MBE
As 2006 drew to a close it was announced that an MBE was on its way to the Reds skipper, accepting it "on behalf of all those who have been so supportive to me throughout my career."

WHAT'S



ON: JUL/AUG



GOALS IN BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE?

Ahead of the International Champions Cup, the Reds complete a run of four friendlies in the North West with a trip to Ewood Park to face Blackburn Rovers.

The game against Tony Mowbray's side, who have been promoted to the Championship as runners-up in League One, will take place on Thursday 19 July with a 7.45pm kick-off. The clubs last met in 2015 when Liverpool won an FA Cup sixth-round replay 1-0 thanks to a goal from Philippe Coutinho.

It follows games against Chester FC on Saturday 7 July (3pm), Tranmere Rovers on Wednesday 11 July (7.30pm) and Bury on Saturday 14 July (3pm).

The Reds will also sign off their pre-season friendly programme with their first Anfield friendly for four years when they play Torino at Anfield on Tuesday 7 August (7.30pm). For the latest ticket information, visit www.liverpoolfc.com/tickets/tickets-availability.

WHAT'S ON:





IRISH EYES

Following the success of last season's pre-season trip to Dublin, the Reds return to the Aviva on Saturday 4 August to face Serie A runners-up Napoli.

Twelve months ago the Reds beat Athletic Bilbao 3-1 in front of a sell-out 51,000 crowd thanks to goals from Roberto Firmino, Ben Woodburn and Dominic Solanke.

Napoli are now managed by Carlo Ancelotti who succeeded Maurizio Sarri on 1 July. Ex-Reds favourite Pepe Reina is one of the goalkeepers, while Belgian attacker Dries Mertens was last season's top scorer with 22 in all competitions.

LFC ambassador Ian Rush said: "As a club, we have tremendous support in Ireland, so it's always a pleasure to come to Dublin and play in front of our Irish fans. There's certain to be a fantastic atmosphere in the Aviva Stadium when Liverpool FC and our Italian opponents arrive and we thank the Football Association of Ireland for their support in hosting the game."

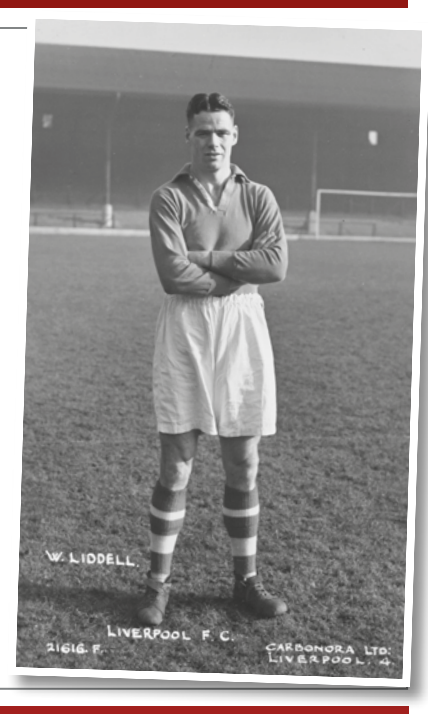
ANNIVERSARIES

***31** years since Peter Beardsley joined the club from Newcastle United on 14 July 1987.*
***44** years since Ray Kennedy joined on 12 July 1974.*
***44** years since legendary Reds boss Bill Shankly announced his shock resignation on 12 July 1974.*
***57** years since center-half colossus and future skipper Ron Yeats signed from Dundee United on 22 July 1961.*
***80** years since winger Billy Liddell joined the Reds from Scottish side Lochgelly Violet on 27 July 1938.*

William Beveridge Liddell started his career with local teams Kingseat Juvenlies and Lochgelly Violet. He first arrived at Liverpool in July 1938 and signed a professional contract nine months later.

Had it not been for a certain Matt Busby, Liverpool's former captain and later Manchester United's manager, Liddell might have headed to Manchester City instead of Anfield. Busby found out that City representatives had been to see Billy's parents with a view to getting their son to join the club. After learning that Billy had turned down the invitation to go there, Busby rang Liverpool manager George Kay and suggested that "this Liddell lad might be worth an enquiry."

It's fair to say he was – serving the Reds with distinction until August 1960, scoring 228 goals in 534 appearances.



BIRTHDAYS

*Virgil van Dijk **27** on 8 July*
*Michael Robinson **60** on 12 July*
*Craig Bellamy **39** on 13 July*
*Peter Cormack **72** on 17 July*
*Roger Hunt **80** on 20 July*



*Mike Marsh **49** on 21 July*
*Dirk Kuyt **38** on 22 July*
*Danny Ings **26** on 23 July*
*Ray Kennedy **67** on 28 July*
*Jim Beglin **55** on 29 July*

2018/19 fixtures

AUGUST
11 West Ham United (H)
18 Crystal Palace (A)
25 Brighton and Hove Albion (H)

SEPTEMBER
1 Leicester City (A)
15 Tottenham Hotspur (A)
18/19 UCL Matchday One
22 Southampton (H)
25/26 Carabao Cup 3
29 Chelsea (A)

OCTOBER
2/3 UCL Matchday Two
6 Manchester City (H)
20 Huddersfield Town (A)
23/24 UCL Matchday One
27 Cardiff City (H)
30/31 Carabao Cup 4

NOVEMBER
3 Arsenal (A)
6/7 UCL Matchday Four
10 Fulham (H)
24 Watford (A)
27/28 UCL Matchday Five

DECEMBER
1 Everton (H)
4 Burnley (A)
8 Bournemouth (A)
11/12 UCL Matchday Six
15 Manchester United (H)
18/19 Carabao Cup 5
22 Wolverhampton Wanderers (A)
26 Newcastle United (H)
29 Arsenal (H)

JANUARY
1 Manchester City (A)
5 FA Cup 3
8/9 Carabao Cup s-f 1
12 Brighton and Hove Albion (A)
19 Crystal Palace (H)
22/23 Carabao Cup s-f 2
26 FA Cup 4
30 Leicester City (H)

FEBRUARY
2 West Ham United (A)
12/13 UCL Round of 16 1
9 Bournemouth (H)
16 FA Cup 5
19/20 UCL Round of 16 1
23 Manchester United (A)
24 Carabao Cup final
27 Watford (H)

MARCH
2 Everton (A)
5/6 UCL Round of 16 2
9 Burnley (H)
12/13 UCL Round of 16 2
16 Fulham (A)/FA Cup 6
30 Tottenham Hotspur (H)

APRIL
6 Southampton (A)/FA Cup s-f
9/10 UCL q-f 1
13 Chelsea (H)
16/17 UCL q-f 2
20 Cardiff City (A)
27 Huddersfield Town (H)
30/1 UCL s-f 1

MAY
4 Newcastle United (A)
7/8 UCL s-f 2
12 Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)
18 FA Cup final

JUNE
1 UCL final

All fixtures are subject to change


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**WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
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It's Naby Keita on his first day at Melwood, but when he was wearing the boots for RB Leipzig who knocked them out of last season's Europa League? **Answer page 98**

New faces, old favourites and all the Mo Salah stats that count

FOOTBALL


96
M.SALAH
11
L.F.C.
L.F.C.

MO MO MO

More fab news: our arch goal-getter has committed himself to the Liverpool cause

Mo Salah will be running down the wing for plenty of years to come after signing a new long-term contract with Liverpool Football Club.

The PFA Player of the Year and Football Writers' Footballer of the Year made a sensational impact in his first season at Anfield, netting 44 goals in 52 games including a Golden Boot-winning 32 in the Premier League – a new record in a 38-game season.

Those performances and goals also earned Salah the LFC Player of the Year and LFC Players' Player of the Year awards and he completed his incredible campaign by netting twice for Egypt in the World Cup in Russia to become only the third Egyptian (after Abdulrahman Fawzi in 1934 and Magdi Abdelghani in 1990) to score for the Pharaohs at a World Cup finals tournament.

Having arrived from AS Roma in the summer of 2017 it is testament to Mo's remarkable debut campaign that the African Footballer of the Year has already been rewarded with a new contract and manager Jürgen Klopp was understandably delighted to see the Egyptian King commit his long-term future to the Redmen.

"I think this news can be seen for what it is: rewarding a person who performed and contributed greatly for the team and the club last season," says the boss. "It demonstrates two things very clearly also: his belief in Liverpool and our belief in him.

"We want world-class talent to see they have a home at Anfield where they can fulfil all their professional dreams and ambitions – we are working hard together to achieve this.

"When someone like Mo Salah commits and says this place is my home now, it speaks very loudly I think. Equally, our commitment to him says we see his value and want him to grow even more and get even better within our environment."

Salah was also handed the Golden Samba – a player-of-the-season award voted for by LFC supporters on Red All Over The Land's 'The Rattle' internet forum – after the final home game of the season against Brighton, and although he was Liverpool's stand-out star in 2017/18 his manager is keen to emphasise that Mo is very much a team-player with a collective mentality.

"The key thing to remember is the best thing about Mo is that he never sees himself as being more important than the team or anyone else within it. He recognises his team-mates and this club helped him achieve individual success last season. He sees the individual awards come because he is part of something bigger that is special.

"Mo reflects where we are as a team, I think. Last season was special with many special moments – but we want more. We want to be more successful and achieve more together, as the supporters sang so loudly, 'we're never gonna stop'.

"This has to be the attitude individually and collectively."



NOW TURN TO PAGE 58 FOR MO'S STUNNING STATS


KEITA
8

HEAD KEITA

Naby Keita will wear an iconic jersey at Liverpool this season, the no8 once worn by former captain Steven Gerrard, but the Guinea international tells LFCTV that it won't faze him



Welcome to Liverpool, Naby – how excited are you to finally be here as a Liverpool player?
Thank you. When you see how they performed last season it makes me want to do the same and to be a part of this team. I would like to be able to achieve a similar kind of season with them next year – but even better.

What made you decide to join Liverpool when you made the decision last summer?
I chose Liverpool because it is a team I watched often – and I also spoke a lot about it with Sadio [Mane]. He told me a lot about the team and the club. I also spoke with the coach, who told me about the project for the team and that motivated me to be here.

What was it like knowing throughout last season you'd be coming to Liverpool in 2018/19?
It wasn't easy for me to take in, but I had a contract with the team I was with so I had to focus on playing for them. But now I am here and it is another step for me. I saw nearly every one of Liverpool's games last season! It gave me the motivation to be with the team and to try and find my place within the team.

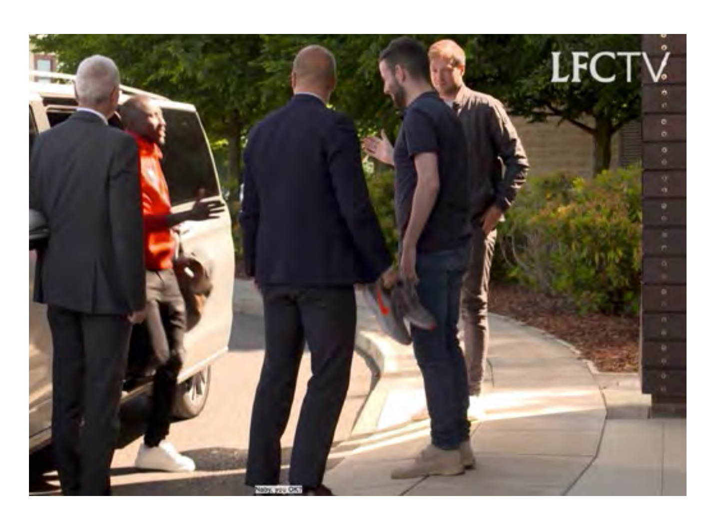
How much are you looking forward to playing behind Mane, Salah and Firmino and co?
Very much. I think it really depends on the coach on whether I'm behind them. But I am looking forward to playing with them in this team. It is a team that can beat anybody in Europe and has a lot of potential. I can't wait to play in this team.

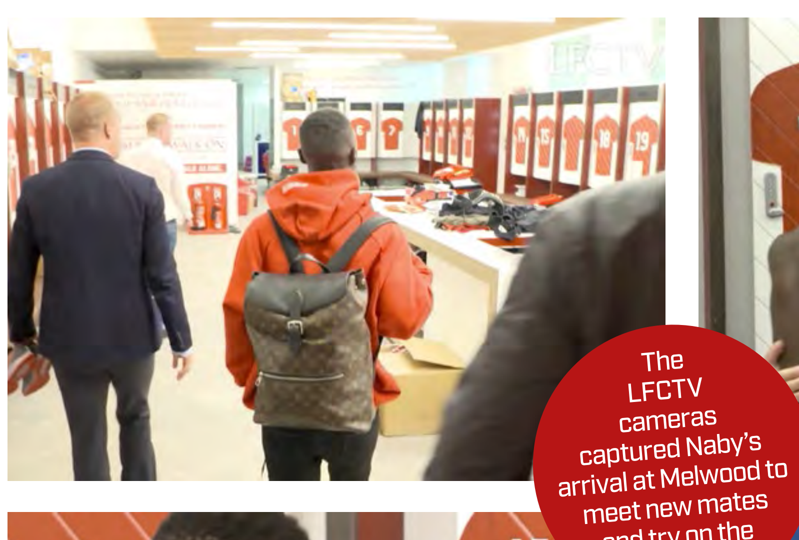
What kind of qualities do you hope to bring to Liverpool?
Firstly I am somebody who plays in a defensive role in the team and we need to start with that, but then I need to bring the ball forward and help the attack. I've always got a desire to win – I believe I'm a winner.
Of course there is room for improvement. When I see how things have progressed here at Liverpool, I think if I am brave I can do the same and develop further.

How much are you looking forward to working under Jürgen Klopp?
I am really looking forward to working with him, but a lot of it depends on me and whether I have the courage to take my chance. And then how I perform on the pitch if I get that chance.





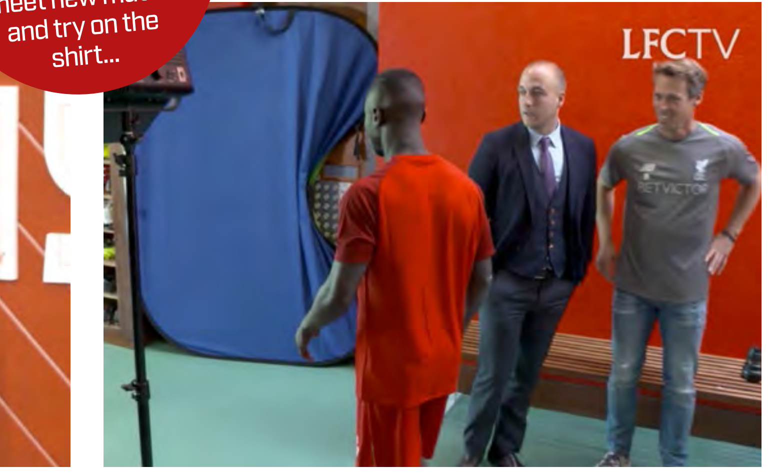




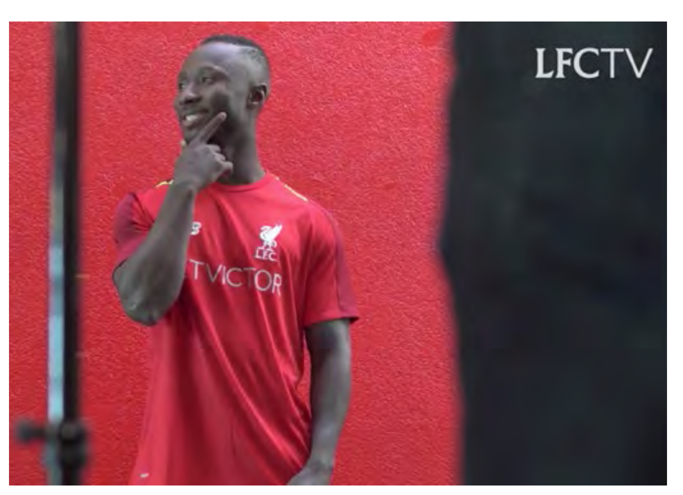


The LFCTV cameras captured Naby's arrival at Melwood to meet new mates and try on the shirt...










LAST YEAR I MET STEVEN GERRARD AND HE GAVE ME THE NO8 JERSEY. IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE DAY FOR ME
Standard













You already have someone you know very well here in Sadio Mane – how important will he be in helping you settle quickly?
Of course he can help me, he is like family to me. We were friends at Salzburg and he was like a brother to me. After training we used to go home together. He was my best friend there.

During my integration into the team he'll be there for me. We did eight months together at Salzburg and I'm looking forward to being his team-mate once again and I am looking forward to the pre-season training, meeting my new team-mates and getting started.

You've worn a Liverpool shirt before…
When I went into the changing-rooms, the emotion took over me. I like the colour red – it suits me! It is an honour to have this shirt and play for such a huge club.

When I was young I didn't know a lot about Liverpool, but when I was coming here my father told me about the history of the club. When I was small, my local team actually played in Liverpool kits.

You're taking the no8 jersey here – how much of a privilege is that?
Yes, it pleases me a lot. It's an important number and it carries a lot of history – but more importantly for me, having this number gives me the motivation to play and to follow in the footsteps of the players who've worn this shirt before.

Last year I met Steven Gerrard and he gave me the no.8 jersey. It was an incredible day for me. When it happened, it was a surprise and I didn't expect it. When he came in, I looked and him and said 'Wow' because he is a legend. He is somebody who always showed respect, who gave his all on the pitch, somebody who is loved here.

If somebody like that gives you his shirt number, it's not to play around with, it is to try and do as much as he did – that's my motivation.

I am going to do my best to carry on helping the team progress, even more so next season. I hope I can make the fans smile.

Subscribe to LFCTV and LFCTV Go by visiting www.liverpoolfc.com/watch. Fans in the UK and Ireland will be able to watch all nine of the Reds' summer friendlies live.



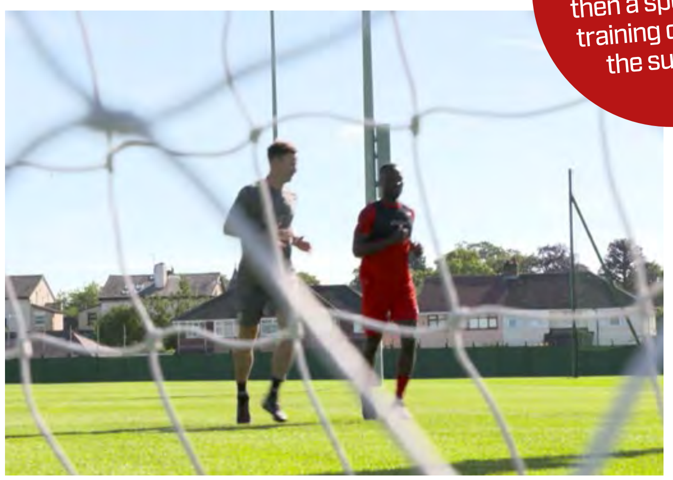






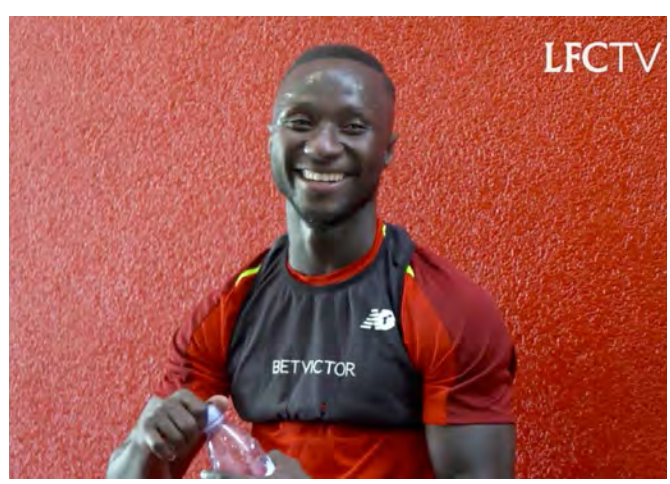


A photo-session with the LFC photographer then a spot of light training outside in the sunshine









Naby's road to Anfield

Liverpool FC figures past and present played a big part on the path that led Naby Keita from French football to Anfield.

Having experienced rejection following trials at Lorient and Le Mans, the midfielder left his home country of Guinea to join Ligue 2 side Istres (a club in southern France near Marseille) in 2013, then aged 18.

He scored in a 4-2 win over Nimes on his debut but his first season in France ended in relegation to the third tier.

Nonetheless the teenager's performances caught the eye of former France and Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier who, in his role as head of global football for Red Bull, suggested the brand's Salzburg club make a move.

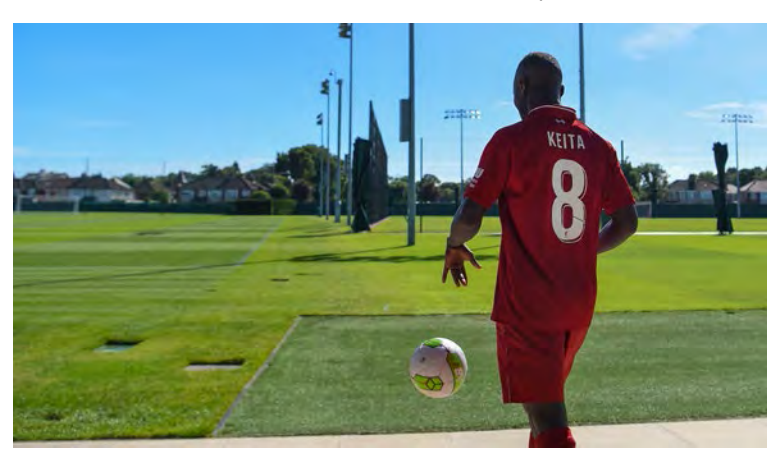
It proved a shrewd decision as he became one of the leading lights in the Austrian Bundesliga.

Twenty goals in 81 appearances underlined the youngster's potential and he also earned two Austrian league titles and two Austrian Cups into the bargain.

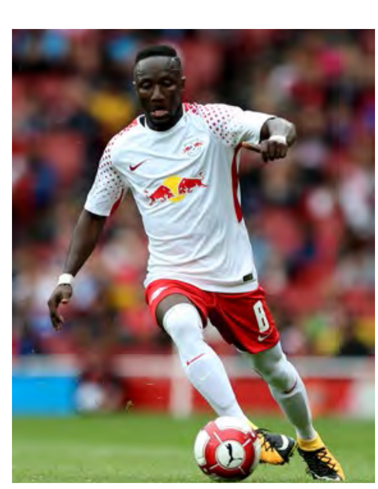
He also made a new friend in future Reds team-mate Sadio Mane – their time in Salzburg overlapping by a matter of months. Of the Senegalese ace he said: "At first I wasn't starting and it was very frustrating.

"I didn't like it and it made the settling-in period harder. But Sadio said: 'My little brother, stay calm – your chance will come and when it does, you will make the most of it'."

By the time Naby was 21 he made the switch to Salzburg's sister club in Leipzig and was not overawed by the challenge of the German







Bundesliga. In December 2016 the *Guardian* journalist Nick Ames wrote: "Europe's biggest names have been interested [in him] for some time and it is not hard to see why.

"A dynamic, box-to-box central midfielder, he has drawn comparisons with N'Golo Kante but distributes the ball with a range and accuracy that has evoked parallels with Deco. That is a potent enough mix even without a keen eye for goal.

"Keita is fundamental to the high-intensity pressing game taught by [Leipzig coach] Ralph Hasenhüttl and characterises the fresh, positive feel behind the entire Leipzig team. They must hope their achievements match up to their prize asset's potential in the seasons to come."



Eight goals in 31 league appearances during his first campaign in Germany helped seal Liverpool's interest in the midfielder and although a deal could not be secured for 12 months, Reds boss Jürgen Klopp was still determined to press on.

Just recently has come praise from a future team-mate and a former opponent. Goal-machine Mohamed Salah has said: "He's a great player, everyone can see that and I am very happy that he is coming to this great club. Let's see what is going to happen but I am very happy to have him in our team and I am very excited to play alongside him."

Former Reds star Xabi Alonso, who played against Keita twice in Bayern Munich v RB Leipzig fixtures in the Bundesliga, told Liverpool FC's official website: "He's a big personality. He has the hunger, the will to compete, and after in football terms he's an all-round midfielder.

"He's good with the ball, he runs and dribbles very quickly with it, but he also likes to make things tick in the midfield.

"I think for this position in front of the holding midfielder, or even as a holding midfielder [or] close to the front-three, he can have that role to find the space and to be up there. So, good signing.

"He will have to adapt to the idea [of Klopp's philosophy] but I don't think that he will have many problems because he's a great player and very complete.

"I see him as a [number] eight. Sometimes he can play as a six, but I could see him more as an eight behind the three strikers."

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1892
2017

Words: Chris McLoughlin



OUR KID

It was the season when Trent Alexander-Arnold went from young prospect to proper grown-up – let's pinch ourselves once again...

Celebrating his Boxing Day goal against Swansea City

Before last season Trent-Alexander Arnold had started two Premier League games for Liverpool Football Club. One at Old Trafford against Manchester United in January 2017, the other at the Britannia Stadium against Stoke City three months later. He was substituted in the second of those games. At half-time.

His only starts at Anfield had been in the League Cup – his first-team debut was against Spurs in a fourth-round tie in October 2016 – and the FA Cup, with his entire Anfield Premier League career consisting of 28 minutes plus stoppage-time in four substitute appearances against Spurs, Arsenal, Everton and Crystal Palace.

For an 18-year-old kid going into a new season as a first-team squad member, that lack of minutes wasn't particularly unusual. But to finish the campaign by playing for Liverpool in a Champions League final then travelling to Russia with the England squad for a World Cup finals tournament – making an accomplished competitive debut against Belgium in the group stage – is far from usual. It's nothing short of a meteoric rise.



Thumbs-up to the Kop from the Golden Samba winner

Not since Michael Owen burst onto the scene in 1997/98 has a teenage Liverpool FC Academy starlet gone from being so inexperienced at Premier League level to an top-drawer international call-up in the space of a season – and Owen didn't get anywhere near a European final, the Reds exiting the UEFA Cup to Strasbourg in November of that season.

So just how did a Scouse lad from West Derby rise through the ranks so rapidly? "A lot of hard work was put in during pre-season," recalled Trent when looking back at his memorable campaign. "I fought really hard for the opportunity and luckily the manager gave it to me to start the first game of the season against Watford. From then on, I just wanted to hit the ground running and try and play as many games as possible.

"He trusted me again in the two Hoffenheim [qualifier] games. Obviously it was a special day for me, making my debut in the Champions League, especially scoring as well so I can't thank the manager enough for giving me the opportunity to do what I've done."

The Champions League game

away to Hoffenheim was a night when Klopp showed just how much faith he had in the youngster. Nathaniel Clyne's injury created the vacancy at right-back, but instead of selecting the more experienced Joe Gomez he kept faith with Alexander-Arnold, handing him a European debut in what looked a hugely tricky tie against a good German side that hadn't lost at their Rhein-Neckar Arena home for 15 months.

"It was just an unbelievable night. I hadn't really played too many night fixtures for the first-team at that stage. I'd never played in Europe and hadn't experienced a European night, kicked a Champions League ball or heard the Champions League anthem on the pitch.

"The way the camera comes across in front of you when we're lining up is weird. You see it on the telly when a few players give a cheeky wink to the cameras, and when I was growing up I'd mess around with my mates doing the same and all that. To then be stood there in Hoffenheim with the camera going past in front of me before playing in a big European game and then scoring the opening goal was a dream-come-true."

Trent's goal, his first for Liverpool, came in the 35th minute from a direct free-kick on the edge of the Hoffenheim penalty area. Despite



Facing the press in Russia this summer

the fact he was the youngest player in the team, he took the set-piece responsibility ahead of senior colleagues after being encouraged by his manager. "I told him he had to take it," revealed Klopp afterwards. "He can shoot free-kicks better than I ever could, but I don't want the credit for it!

"I have to say for an 18-year-old who has the balls to take a free-kick like that, it is rather more exciting and interesting for me than a little mistake he makes.

"I told him to take it because I watched him many times for the Under-23s last season. He took the free-kicks then and, by the way, the goal is the same size. There is a big challenge after training between him and Ben Woodburn. They are both good and both improving."

The 'little mistake' to which Klopp referred was partly responsible for costing Liverpool a goal in their 2-1 win. Thinking Hoffenheim striker Mark Uth was offside, Alexander-Arnold hesitated before tracking his run and by then it was too late, the German striker slotting home.

Yet Klopp astutely turned a negative into a positive so as not to dent the teenager's confidence.

"It was an intense game for Trent,

Trent's strong performance against Hoffenheim was a sign of things to come

he still has some things to learn. He thought their goal was offside but it was unfortunately not offside. Trent is a great player and I have to say I'd rather win 2-1 than 1-0."

Such a mentality sums up Klopp's management style. He'll give a young player opportunities and accept they will make mistakes as long as they contribute positively as well. As the season wore on, Trent did indeed make a few other errors, as every player does, but gave far more to the Liverpool team and more than justified his regular inclusion, predominantly at right-back.

"I think that was definitely an objective of mine this season, to feel as if I was a bit more of a member of the team, to try and establish myself a bit more and I think that with the opportunities that I've been given, I've done that.

"Again I can only be thankful to the manager for the chances and the opportunities that he's given me this season to let me go out there and establish myself as a player in the first team."

TO BE STOOD THERE WITH THE CAMERA GOING PAST ON A BIG EUROPEAN NIGHT WAS A DREAM-COME-TRUE

Liverpool played 56 games in total in 2017/18. Trent appeared in 33 of them. He was injury-free, but Klopp was always going to manage his game-time sensibly and rotated him with Gomez – who made 31 appearances – before Clyne's return to fitness in April saw that player make a couple of starts.

"He's really good with man-management," reveals Trent. "He knows how often and how long players can play for and how much the body can withstand on the pitch. He knows when to take a player off and when to put another one on in his place, and I think that's something he does really well.

"His decision-making off the pitch is really good because he also knows when to give us a bit of a 'down-day' and when to push other players because they need that little bit more in the tank.

"I think that has paid off and it shows with the physical numbers we come out with on a weekend."



With the boss on the touchline in Kiev

Trent had a blinder twice against Manchester City's Leroy Sane

Having spent most of his Academy life as a midfielder, Alexander-Arnold's transformation to an attacking right-back has been testament to his versatility and something he's spoken about at length. "It's probably one of the most over-crowded positions that we have with myself, Joe and Clyney. It's tough but all three of us love the competition.

"Obviously when you're sat on the bench you want to be out there playing, but when the manager puts his trust in you to go and perform it gives you the motivation to do well knowing he could've chosen someone else instead.

"The competition for places also helps us in training as we've got to fight for our place every day because usually only one of the three of myself, Joe and Clyney will play.

"I have to say thanks to [Under-23s manager] Neil Critchley because he really helped me develop, especially in the right-back position because it was under him that I first really adopted that role.

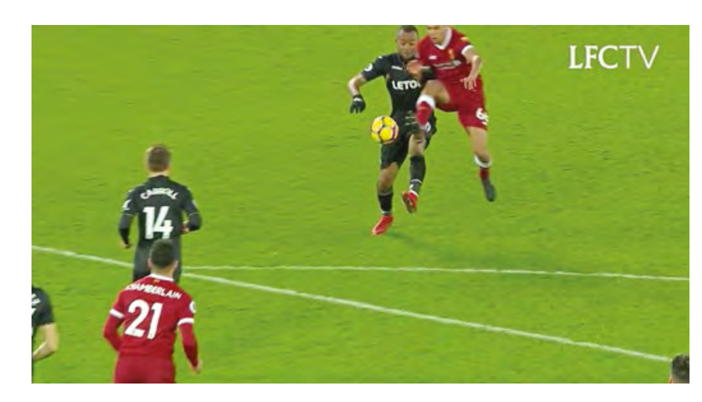
"Obviously at the start it was a bit tough and a bit challenging for me personally, but he believed in me and kept playing me there. He always supported me in the right ways.

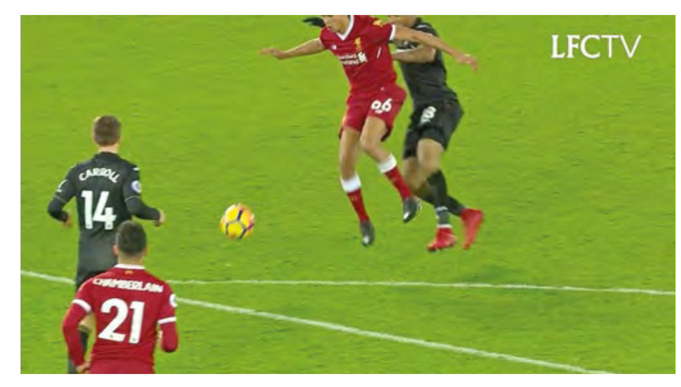
"We always used to have little chats about the position. Because I



Flying high on World Cup duty with Jordan Henderson and the rest of the England squad


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Frame by frame: Trent's thumping goal against Swansea City at Anfield last December

THE MANAGER KNOWS HOW OFTEN PLAYERS CAN PLAY FOR; HIS DECISION-MAKING IS SO GOOD

was his captain I think it was a little bit easier to get on with him and we spoke a lot, sat down and chatted, watched videos of certain right-backs. We analysed a lot of things together and I have to say a lot of my knowledge about the right-back role has come from 'Critch', especially because he was always there for me when I first got into that position and he really helped me push forward."

There were some tough lessons. Marcus Rashford got in twice behind Trent to give Manchester United a 2-1 Premier League victory at Old Trafford in March, something Klopp wasn't happy about: "We have to defend these situations better; you can always lose a header or a challenge with Romelu Lukaku, of course, but there is a gap in behind and we need to close that."

When the Reds drew Manchester City in the last eight of the Champions League, that defeat to United was flagged up in some quarters. It was suggested that Pep Guardiola would target Liverpool's right-hand side in the first leg at Anfield in the belief that Leroy Sane, who subsequently won PFA young player of the year, would give Alexander-Arnold the runaround.

By the end of Liverpool's thumping 3-0 win there were memes doing the rounds on Twitter of Sane in Trent's back-pocket.

"Obviously it is funny people saying stuff like that," smiled Trent when asked about the social-media reaction. "It's hard not to see them to be honest! But if you are seeing stuff like that, then you know you must have had a good game.

"He is a fantastic opponent and I am happy that people have seen [that] maybe I came out on top in that one-on-one duel."

Alexander-Arnold made 12 Champions League appearances last season and played for the full 90 minutes in the final in Kiev, displaying maturity beyond his years with an accomplished display against Real Madrid despite Liverpool's 3-1 defeat. He even came closest to scoring for the Redmen in the first-half, his right-footed drive saved by Keylor Navas.

That Trent has shone on the European stage – he netted his second goal of the season in the 7-0

Oh so close against Real Madrid in the Champions League final

group-stage away-win in Maribor – feels somehow fitting. It was on a famous European night when he first attended a game at Anfield, sitting in the Main Stand, towards the Kop end, as the Reds beat Juventus 2-1 in the 2005 Champions League quarter-final first leg. “From that game on, I was a Liverpool fan. That was the moment when I knew it would always be Liverpool for me.

“It was just the most special thing I’d ever witnessed in my life at that time. The atmosphere, the singing of *You’ll Never Walk Alone* on a Champions League night, seeing all the flags on the Kop and the floodlights illuminating the pitch...that feeling was indescribable. I was really young but I still remember everything about it.”

He was six-and-a-half-year-old when the Reds beat AC Milan in Istanbul, a match he watched at home, and eight-and-a-half in 2007 when Liverpool lost the final to the same opponents in Athens, a game he watched on a big screen with family and mates. Nine years on Trent – who turned 19 in October 2017 and still lives at home with his mum and brothers – was playing in a Champions League final and could scarcely believe it.

“We want to go to Kiev and win,” he told the magazine during the build-up to the big game. “We’ll be fighting to win and we’ll hopefully lift the Champions League...it sounds crazy to be saying that!”

Although he ended up with a runners-up medal, defeat in the NSC Olimpiyskiy cannot detract from the outstanding season Alexander-Arnold had. He was named as LFC young player of the year and also landed a similar award from Liverpool supporters – presented with the ‘Golden Samba’ after the 4-0 end-of-season home victory against Brighton in May.

Another highlight was Trent’s first goal in both the Premier League and at Anfield, a soaring right-footed effort that crashed in off the underside of the crossbar in the 5-0 win against Swansea City on Boxing Day. “It’s a dream come true to


End-of-season award winner with James Milner

score at Anfield, especially to win," he said afterwards. "I've scored two goals away from home but it's good to get one at Anfield, especially at the Kop end."

Then, of course, came his call-up to Gareth Southgate's 23-man World Cup squad, despite having never previously won a full international cap. Klopp broke the news to him and the Duke of Cambridge handed Trent his first England shirt before his debut in a friendly against Costa Rica at Elland Road, a week before the finals tournament kicked off.

Despite his rise to prominence, Alexander-Arnold has remained grounded by continuing to volunteer for community charity An Hour for Others, which sees local people help those in some of Liverpool's most deprived areas by donating their time.

In his mid-teens he helped An Hour For Others founder Kevin Morland load boxes of donated toys into his van and along with Kris Owens, his best friend at the LFC Academy, made a pact. "We said that if either of us made it, we would help out the charity," he told *The New York Times* newspaper. "As a local lad I was keen to get involved. I can relate to the kids and I know what impact it can have just to show that it is possible."

Back on the pitch and with Liverpool's pre-season starting before the World Cup has ended, it will be interesting to see how Klopp utilises Alexander-Arnold in the early months of 2018/19, especially as older Kopites will remember that 20 years ago Owen suffered from hamstring issues towards the end of his post-World Cup season, sparking a debate about burnout and overusing teenage players.

In the meantime Trent has been reflecting on a fantastic 2017/18 campaign, in which he netted three goals in 33 games in total, by admitting how grateful he is to be a first-team Liverpool player and thanking the man who has shown such faith in him, Jürgen Klopp.





More of the same next season please!

I AM SO HAPPY AND GRATEFUL TO BE IN MY SITUATION

"There has been a lot of ups and downs and twists and turns which maybe a lot of people have not seen in training and off the pitch.

"There hasn't always been just a steady rise, there have been mistakes and bad games along the way that help you learn. It is thanks to those games and the trust of the manager that helps you get through those tough moments and not let them get you down.

"Looking back 12 months ago, I would never have thought I'd be in this situation and I am so grateful for it. I am happy to get the chance to play whenever I get the chance and it is down to the trust the manager has shown in me.

"Every time he has trusted me to play, especially in the big games, I try to show why he has trusted me and I try to do him and the team proud."

Trent Alexander-Arnold has done both and you suspect he'll continue to do so for many more years to come.


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DOM'S DREAM

Striker Solanke is hoping for more appearances and more goals for the Reds next season

This is your first week back at Melwood, did you have a good summer break?
I had a really good summer break, it was nice to get some rest. I went to Miami with the boys and it was really good. I hadn't spent time with the boys for a while so it was good to go away with them.

I'd never been to Miami before and it was so lively. There was always something going on and the weather was nice as well.

It certainly looked lively when you uploaded a picture to Instagram of a giant snake wrapped around you...
We had a little mansion party and they brought some animals to it. There was this big snake and I thought I might as well get a picture with it, so they put it on my shoulders. I was quite big, though, so I was quite scared. It was a good picture though!

You'll be back in America on Liverpool's pre-season tour this month – looking forward to it?
I'm really looking forward to going to America again on pre-season tour. There are a lot of good teams going there – we play Borussia Dortmund, Man City and Man United – so it will be good to test ourselves against them before the season starts.

I've never been to Charlotte, New Jersey or Michigan so I am looking forward to seeing them. There is quite a lot of training and match-focus when we go on tour – there's a lot of hard work goes into pre-season so we have to try to rest in-between – but we get to see some of the places we go to.

We see a bit travelling to and from the stadiums and the training grounds, but when we get a bit of free time it's nice to have a look around as well.

Playing in different environments is a definitely a good thing, too, especially when you are in the Champions League. We have to go around Europe and play in different conditions in different cities so it's good to prepare for that in pre-season too."

Will Liverpool v City and United be more intense than some pre-season games often are due to the rivalry between the clubs?
Sometimes people think pre-season games aren't really competitive but when you play against teams that you are going to be playing against in the Premier League season, and maybe Europe, it becomes more competitive. With Liverpool and the Manchester teams there is always that rivalry too.

It's always good to send out a message playing against those clubs in pre-season and the game against United is in Michigan Stadium which somebody told me →





is the second biggest in the world. It'll be amazing to play there because both teams have amazing fans and I'm sure there will be a really good turnout.

I enjoy playing in big stadiums – it's what I dreamed of as a kid – so that will be some experience and I'm looking forward to playing in New Jersey too where the SuperBowl has been held.

How important is it to impress the manager in pre-season?
Whenever you are training and playing you are always trying to impress but pre-season is always a good time to impress the manager to put yourself in his mind.

It's an opportunity for everyone to show what they can do and this year a lot of the boys were still away at the World Cup when we came back in for training. They will need their rest before returning so it should give more game-time for the rest of us to impress.

At the start you're always dreading pre-season but when you get into the flow of it you just start looking forward to the season. We're working towards the first game of the season but we only focus on that during the last couple of weeks, for now it is mainly about building up our fitness.

Last season was your first as a Liverpool player – how do you reflect on it?
I think it was a good season for me. I was a bit in-and-out but we went on a good run in the Champions League and it was amazing to be in and around the team.

It's always a bit easier when you are regularly playing, but when you are not you've got to try to keep fit and stay sharp. I came on against Man City and Roma in the Champions League and I really enjoyed those nights. I want to play in big games and it was good to get the chance to do that.

The second leg of the semi-final in Rome was one of the biggest nights of my life. The celebrations after the game, after we'd gone there and got through over the two legs, were incredible.

You were also part of the squad that played in the Champions League final in Kiev...
Being involved in a Champions League final was a big experience for me. The game came almost two weeks after the end of the season so I got to experience the build-up and all the excitement ahead of such a big game for the first time. It was a really good period so it was just a shame that we couldn't win the final in Kiev.

Was it frustrating not to be brought on as a substitute?
It's always frustrating looking from the sides but the boys done well and it was just unlucky that we lost. Hopefully we can get back to another final because when you lose a final it makes you want to get there again and win it even more.

We have a lot of young boys here, a lot of crazy talent, and there are more coming in. I've had a few training sessions with Naby [Keita] and Fabinho and they are really nice guys. All the boys need to help them settle in like they helped me last season, but I'm sure it won't take long.

Finally, what would be a good 2018/19 for you?
I want to do better than last season. I want to improve my game and I'm one year older so I've got to show my maturity.

I had a long wait to get my first goal for Liverpool but it was a crazy feeling when it hit the net and for it to come in that game against Brighton, when we needed a result to make sure of qualifying for the Champions League, made it even better.

When Mo gave me the ball I thought to myself: this is my chance, if I don't score now… There wasn't too long left in the game so when the ball hit the back of the net there was a lot of relief.

I'd been unlucky in some other games not to score and it was frustrating that I had come so close without it happening, so it was a relief, but I think it also showed I can stay strong in my head and that I continued to do the right thing. Hopefully there will be more goals to come next season.

Interview: Chris McLoughlin



~~PLAY FOOTBALL~~

PLAY THE LIVERPOOL WAY



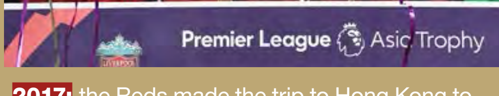
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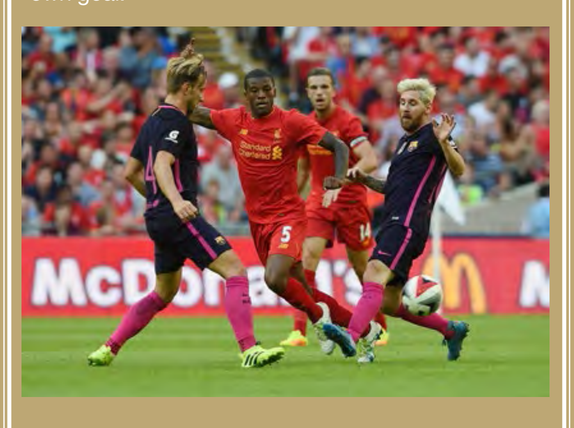
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LFC PRE-SEASON TOURNOS: THE LAST 10

2017: the Reds made the trip to Hong Kong to compete in the Premier League Asia Trophy last July, beating Leicester City 2-1 in the final after a 2-0 defeat of Crystal Palace. They then travelled to Germany for the Audi Cup, losing 5-4 on penalties to Atletico Madrid in the final after sweeping aside Bayern Munich 3-0 in the semi at the Allianz Arena.

2016: Jürgen Klopp's men played three games in the United States at the International Champions Cup. After losing 1-0 to Chelsea in Pasadena, the Reds responded by seeing off AC Milan 2-0 in Santa Clara thanks to goals from Divock Origi and Roberto Firmino. Then came the icing on the cake as the team returned to the UK to face Barcelona at Wembley. A stunning 4-0 victory saw Origi on target again with new signings Sadio Mane and Marko Grujic also finding the net, along with former favourite Javier Mascherano, who put through his own goal.



2015: the Reds covered some distance with trips to play representative teams from Thailand (4-0) and Malaysia (1-1) book-ending a visit to Australia, where a 2-1 win over Brisbane Roar was followed by a 2-0 victory at Adelaide Roar. Almost 200,000 fans in total saw the four fixtures.





READY TO RUM

Huge stadiums, thousands of fans, formidable opposition, piece of cake… The Reds are heading Stateside this month to ramp up pre-season

The Reds will step up their pre-season preparations this summer when they take part in the International Champions Cup for the third time. The squad heads to the USA for three matches in a week, kicking off against Borussia Dortmund in the Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina on Sunday 22 July.

Jürgen Klopp's men then play the two Manchester clubs, taking on Premier League champions City at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey on Wednesday 25 July before locking horns with United at the 107,601-capacity 'Big House' Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor on Saturday 28 July.

Liverpool have previously played in the ICC tournament in 2014 and 2016, finishing as runners-up on both occasions. In 2014 they lost to 3-1 to Manchester United in the final at Miami Gardens, Florida, while in 2016 they were second to Paris St Germain in the 10-team USA and Europe division of the competition.



BLE



BORUSSIA DORTMUND

Manager: Lucien Favre

Last season: 4th in Bundesliga

New signings: Marwin Hitz (Augsburg), Marius Wolf (Eintracht Frankfurt), Thomas Delaney (Werder Bremen), Abdou Diallo (Mainz), Eric Oelschlagel (Werder Bremen).
Dortmund had an underwhelming 2017/18 season, scraping into the last Champions League qualifying berth by virtue of having a better goal-difference than Bayer Leverkusen. Der BvB also went out of the Champions League at the group stage before exiting the Europa League and German Cup in the last 16.

Two Peters, Bosz and Stoger, managed the team before the latter stepped down in May. Former Swiss international midfielder Lucien Favre was appointed as his successor. He has previous experience of managing in the Bundesliga at Hertha Berlin and Borussia Moenchengladbach before spending the past two seasons in French football with Nice.

** new signings correct to 1 July 2018*

2014: Liverpool's first trip to America for the International Champions Cup saw them play four matches. Raheem Sterling's early goal gave them a 1-0 triumph over Olympiacos in Chicago before efforts from the same player and Jordan Henderson earned a 2-2 draw with Manchester City in New York. The Reds won 3-1 on penalties. Next was a trip to Charlotte where goals from midfield men Joe Allen and Suso secured a 2-0 win over AC Milan in North Carolina. Finally, Brendan Rodgers' men faced Manchester United and fell to a 3-1 defeat as the Red Devils scored three times after the break following Steven Gerrard's first-half penalty at the Sun Life Stadium in Florida.



2013: three games in the Far East and Australia were on the menu for the Reds. First they served up a 2-0 win over and Indonesian XI with a crowd of more than 82.000 seeing goals from Philippe Coutinho and Raheem Sterling help Liverpool to victory. Four days later, almost 96,000 fans belted out *You'll Never Walk Alone* before the Reds' 2-0 defeat of Melbourne Victory – Gerrard and Iago Aspas on the scoresheet. Finally, a 3-0 defeat of the Thailand national team was watched by 45,000 supporters at the Rajamangala Stadium. Coutinho, Aspas and Gerrard were the marksmen.



2012: Brendan Rodgers' first pre-season as manager took in three games in North America as captured on a documentary entitled *Being: Liverpool*. His team started with a 1-1 draw against Toronto in Ontario before a 2-1 defeat to AS Roma at Fenway Park in Boston. They signed off with a 0-0 draw against Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur at the M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore.



MANCHESTER CITY

Manager: Pep Guardiola
Last season: 1st in Premier League

New signings: Philippe Sandler (PEC Zwolle).

City swept to the Premier League title in style last season, setting the following records: most points amassed (100); most away points (50); most points ahead of runners-up (19); most wins (32); most away wins (16); most goals scored (106); best goal-difference (+79); most consecutive victories (18); biggest share of away-possession (82.13%); fewest minutes losing during games (153); and quickest team to score 100 goals (35 matches).

Pep Guardiola's men also won the League Cup but will be looking for an improved showing in the Champions League this time around following a 5-1 aggregate defeat in the quarter-finals at the hands of the Reds.

** new signings correct to 1 July 2018*



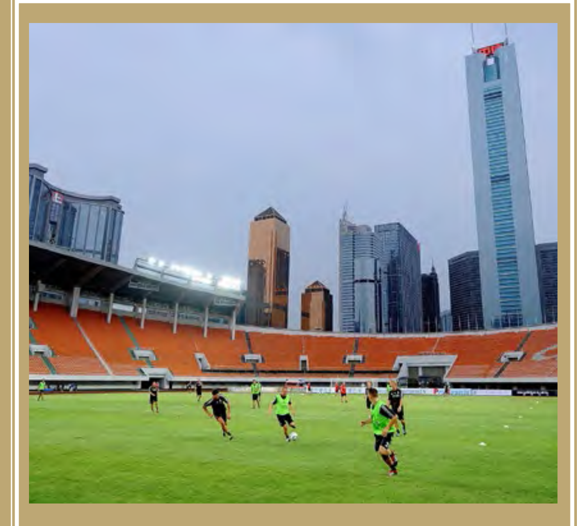
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WE ARE LIVERPOOL. THIS MEANS MORE.



2011: Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool headed out to the Far East to play fixtures in China and Malaysia. An entertaining 4-3 win over Chinese side Guangdong Sunray Cave preceded a 6-3 win over a Malaysian XI which saw Liverpool score five times in the final 22 minutes!

2010: with an early entry into the Europa League to consider, Roy Hodgson's pre-season campaign took in just three games in Switzerland and Germany. The Reds failed to score in any of the outings as a goalless draw with Grasshopper in Zurich was followed by 1-0 defeats at the hands of Kaiserslautern and Borussia Moenchengladbach.

2009: Rafa Benitez took his squad to Switzerland for a training camp before the Reds jetted out to Asia. Games against St Gallen (0-0) and Rapid Vienna (0-1) came before a 1-1 draw with Thailand and a 5-0 defeat of a Singapore League Select XI.



2008: with a crucial Champions League qualifier against Standard Liege coming up in August, the Reds stayed in Europe for their pre-season preparations. There was a 2-1 win over Lucerne and a 1-1 draw with Wizla Krakow in Switzerland, followed by goalless draws against Hertha Berlin in Germany and Villarreal in Spain. The Reds then defeated Rangers 4-0 in Glasgow and Valerenga 4-1 in Oslo.





MANCHESTER UNITED

Manager: Jose Mourinho
Last season: 2nd in Premier League

New signings: Diogo Dalot (FC Porto), Fred (Shakhtar Donetsk).

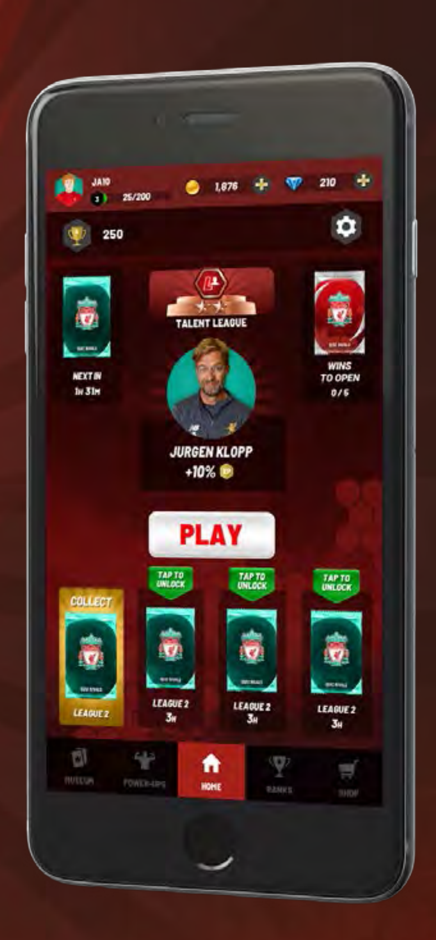
Defeat by Chelsea in the FA Cup final meant United ended last season empty-handed, though they will have been encouraged by a strong showing in the Premier League that saw them finish as runners-up to their City rivals.

United's tally of 81 points and goal-difference of plus-40 would have been enough to win the title in six of the 26 seasons since the league's inception. The Red Devils bowed out of the Champions League and the League Cup in the rounds of 16 and were runners-up in the UEFA Super Cup but will have been encouraged by the goalscoring return of Belgian attacker Romelu Lukaku (27 in all competitions) in his first season at Old Trafford.

** new signings correct to 1 July 2018*

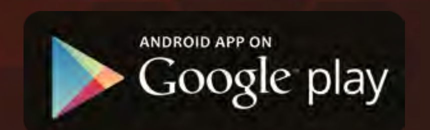


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RED MAN REDFEARN

In a summer of change at Liverpool Ladies we catch up with new manager Neil Redfearn to discuss his exciting plans for next season



Welcome to Liverpool FC, Neil. The name of this football club is always a big draw...
It's synonymous with winning things. It's got a history of doing that, the people of Liverpool expect it and rightly so.

We're in a transitional moment with the women's team given the amount of players who have left, but I think it's an exciting time.

We can regenerate and rebuild and have a different slant on how we do things. I am looking forward to the season.

In taking on the role as manager you must be looking forward to the challenge...
Absolutely. It's a big challenge and as it's turned out [that] with those player departures, it's a blank canvas. That give us scope to rebuild and bring players in to build the team.

We're well aware of all the talented young players at the club and that's got to be uppermost in our thinking as well: to try to integrate them and bring them through.

But we've also got some good players lined up to come in, too, so it's exciting times for the club.

You made a big statement when you took the Doncaster Belles job last year having previously held positions such as manager of Leeds United's men's team...
The big thing for me was that I'd been linked with a few jobs and turned a couple down because the right opportunity hadn't come along. But at the end of the day, I was sat at home and I wanted to get back out on the grass and get coaching again.

The opportunity to go and work with Doncaster Belles came along. Initially I had a couple of months working there before I took the job on full-time and I really enjoyed myself. I thought the girls were excellent. I have to say that their attitudes towards wanting to get better and do well was really refreshing.

Then you get the bug because hopefully you see the difference that bringing your experience and expertise to it makes. I'm at a point in my career where I've covered most things and I've got good experience at all levels.

But in professional football or football at elite levels, the principles are the same, whether it's men or women, and those are the values that I'll bring to the club.

Interview: William Hughes



IT'S A TRANSITIONAL MOMENT FOR THE LADIES TEAM BUT AN EXCITING TIME TOO – WE CAN REGENERATE AND REBUILD





Attacker Jess Clarke on the front foot last season

You mention your experience at all levels – you've probably seen most things in the game...

Exactly. Initially my experience as a coach and then as a caretaker-manager and so on was in the lower levels where you've got absolutely no resources, but I also think that was a great baptism because you've got to think outside the box and that helps you further down the line.

Then when you get the opportunity to manage a big club like Leeds United, you've got the other end of the spectrum with having resources and managing expectations. I think all those experiences stand you in good stead for anything that is thrown at you.

After winning FA WSL 2 with Doncaster Belles last season you must be looking forward to testing yourself at the top level of the women's game...

Definitely. It was just a shame for the girls at Doncaster last year that there was no promotion at the end of it [due to a league restructure] because finishing ten points clear is some distance and, I have to say, they really were that good.

This is a new challenge. It is a higher level with a better standard of football, but the principles will be the same in terms of working hard as a team and having a game-plan that the team can trust and rely on.

Then we will be encouraging those players that have flair to go and open teams up. We want the players to play with a smile on their faces. That's a big thing for me.

You mention the number of talented players at youth-level at the club; as a coach you're known for bringing through younger players...

Looking at the talented young players that we've got at the club was one of the biggest draws for me. If you look down through the national teams, we've got two or three players in each age-group which is an unbelievable achievement and the people involved at the [club's] Regional Talent Club and the Development Squad have got to take great credit because that is a real achievement and we've got to utilise it.

We've got to find a way of developing these young players of our own, integrating them into the first-team squad, developing them and using them for Liverpool's benefit.


In action for Charlton against the Reds and Jamie Redknapp

WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE OUR FLAIR PLAYERS TO OPEN UP TEAMS AND PLAY WITH A SMILE ON THEIR FACES

You touched on the squad being a blank canvas and that's particularly the case in defence following the departures of captain Gemma Bonner, Alex Greenwood, Martha Harris and Amy Turner...
Definitely. It's important that you're strong at the back and that you don't concede easily.

I work on the theory of constants and variables. Your constants are your back-four, your midfield 'sitter' or a more disciplined midfield. Your variables are where you can become a little bit more out of your shape to be a bit freer to make chances and score goals. We've recruited under that banner.

But first and foremost the players that we've approached and made offers for are good people. I think that's the most important thing. I think in any sport, if you get good people that want to work then you can look at the athlete and the player and that's what we've done.

Your first signing is the Millwall Lionesses' defender Leighanne Robe...
Leighanne had a fantastic season at Millwall where she was captain. Millwall pushed Doncaster all the way in FA WSL 2 last season and she was outstanding.

She can play in one or two positions and gives us natural balance at the back so it's a coup for us. Millwall had an outstanding run where they were unbeaten in the league for a year and she's used to keeping clean-sheets which is a good sign.

At Belles a big feature of everything we did was about being difficult to score against and play against at the back. The whole team enjoyed denying space to opponents and were keen as a group to block and tackle and get their bodies in the way and they did it fantastically well. Millwall were exactly the same and Leighanne was part of that strong backline.


Niamh Charles is an exciting young talent

The FA WSL is developing year-on-year and it looks set to be its most competitive season to date in 2018/19...
I think that's the case, especially with two Premier League clubs at men's level in Brighton and West Ham joining the league. Those clubs have put their backing in, which is great because it gives even more girls the opportunity to go and be elite full-time players and compete at the highest level and that can only be a good thing.

I look at the level of women's football and it's gone on tenfold in a relatively short space of time. You look at the England national team and how they've improved to the point where they're so close to winning something, so it's a good time for the women's game.

The interest seems to be increasing all the time and Liverpool Football Club are a big club who wants to be competing and eventually winning things and that's uppermost in our thinking.

The Liverpool Ladies supporters are well-known for their backing of the team home and away...
Yes and that's a big thing. There's a proud history among the women's team at Liverpool and a great history among the men's team. That's something we want to uphold as the name of this football club is renowned throughout the game.

We don't want to stand still, we want to keep getting better and I think we're in a good place.







Neil 2, Liverpool 3, Barnsley 8 (men that is)

Saturday 28 March 1998 marks Liverpool's last league meeting with Barnsley and it's one that Yorkshireman Neil Redfearn remembers well.

A Premier League clash at Oakwell saw Neil score twice but Barnsley end the game with eight men as Roy Evans' Reds recorded a dramatic 3-2 victory.

"We had no players left at the end!" the new Liverpool Ladies manager recalls. "It was a cracking day other than the referee, bless him. I remember it was Roger Willard and it was all happening. We went one-nil up but started losing players and then pulled back to 2-2 with nine men at one stage."

Neil's opener was cancelled out by Liverpool striker Karlheinz Riedle on the stroke of half-time before the German international fired the Reds ahead just before the hour-mark.

Barnsley had seen defenders Darren Barnard and Chris Morgan sent off before Redfearn slotted a penalty past Reds goalie Brad Friedel to level the scores with five minutes remaining.

Steve McManaman netted a 90th-minute winner after a free-kick routine which then saw Barnsley midfielder Darren Sheridan become the third home player to see red for his protests!

Neil, who'd make over 1,000 appearances over a 24-year playing career, continues: "Barnsley were unlucky that day. I think on the balance of it, a draw would have been a fair result. Liverpool played ever so well but we matched them that day. I scored twice that day but Steve McManaman popped up with a late winner.

"It certainly sticks in the memory!"

MEET THE NEW GIRLS

An expected influx of new signings has started with Liverpool Ladies strengthening their defence and adding an exciting forward to the mix



Yana Daniels (forward)

A Belgian international attacker who offers options across the frontline, Yana moved to the FA WSL1 last summer when she joined Bristol City Women from Anderlecht.

The 26-year-old says: "I love the English game as it is much quicker and the facilities here are fantastic.

"I like to play as a winger or as a no10, anywhere across the front line.

"As a forward player, I hope I can meet the fans' expectations and score plenty of goals and help the team to be successful. This is a club with a great history and I didn't have to give it a moment's thought when I heard Liverpool were interested in me."



Leighanne Robe (defender)

The 24-year-old has joined from Millwall Lionesses having previously played in the FA WSL 2 at Watford Ladies. She started her career at Arsenal and was an FA Youth Cup winner in her final season with the Gunners.

"I am absolutely delighted to be joining the club and I'm really looking forward to working alongside Neil [Redfearn]," she said. "It is a massive opportunity to make the step up to WSL1 and I am really excited for the new season.

"Although this is a transition period for the club, Neil has some exciting plans for the future and I have no doubt that we will have a successful season next year. This is a huge club which should be competing for trophies on a regular basis and having spoken to Neil, that is definitely the aim of the club."



Jasmine Matthews (defender)

Named Bristol City's Players' Player of the Season last year, the 25-year-old can operate at centre-back or left-back.

"I have spent my whole career at Bristol City Women so this was a big decision for me to make and I don't like change but once I heard about the interest from Liverpool Ladies it was a no brainer," she explained.

"It is a fantastic club with real ambitions to challenge for trophies so I am really excited for the future.

Reds manager Neil Redfearn added: "I am delighted to have signed Jasmine as she is a real leader who I believe will play a key part for us next season. Jasmine's versatility was another bonus for us as she is equally as comfortable playing in midfield as she is in defence."

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RECORD MAKER!



Mohamed Salah enjoyed a sensational season with the Reds in 2017/18. Statisticians Dave Ball and Ged Rea have done some digging to discover an astonishing 25 milestones made by the Egyptian King...



Most goals for Liverpool in first 12 Premier League games with 9

Equalled the record of being the fastest player to 10 Premier League goals for Liverpool (13 games)



First Liverpool player for 31 years to score 20 goals before Christmas in league and cup

Equalled the club record of 23 goals in a season before New Year in all competitions

Quickest to 20 league goals for Liverpool for 103 years (25 games)

Reached 20 Premier League goals quicker than any other Liverpool player (25 games)

Quickest to 30 goals for Liverpool in all competitions for 122 years (36 games)

First to score a league hat-trick for LFC under Jürgen Klopp (four goals v Watford)


Stand
Charte
SALAH

Scored more goals in a debut season than any other Liverpool player in history

Scored more goals in a Premier League season than any other African player

First Liverpool player for 31 years to score 40 goals in a season





Quickest to 30 league goals (32 games) for Liverpool in 122 years

Quickest to score 30 Premier League goals for the club (32 games)

Quickest ever to score 40 goals for LFC in all competitions (45 games)



RECORD MAKER!

Scored more goals in a 38-game season than any player in Premier League history

Most goals for Liverpool in a Premier League season

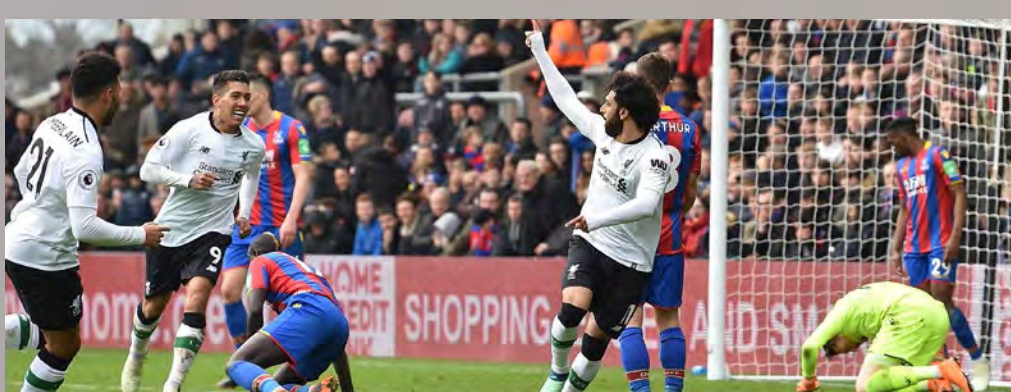
Scored in 34 different games in a season for Liverpool – another club record



Set a new club and Premier League record by scoring in 24 different league games in a season

Most goals in a European season for Liverpool with 11 – equal with Roberto Firmino

Quickest to reach 10 European goals for Liverpool (13 games)



Most goals for Liverpool in a league season for 34 years

Scored against 17 of the 19 Premier League opponents – a PL record

First player to be named Premier League Player of the Month three times in a single season

Scored in 34 different games this season - equalling the English football record set by Joe Payne (Luton Town) in 1936/37 and Clive Allen (Tottenham) in 1986/87

First African to be voted Football Writers' Footballer of the Year

RECORD MAKER!



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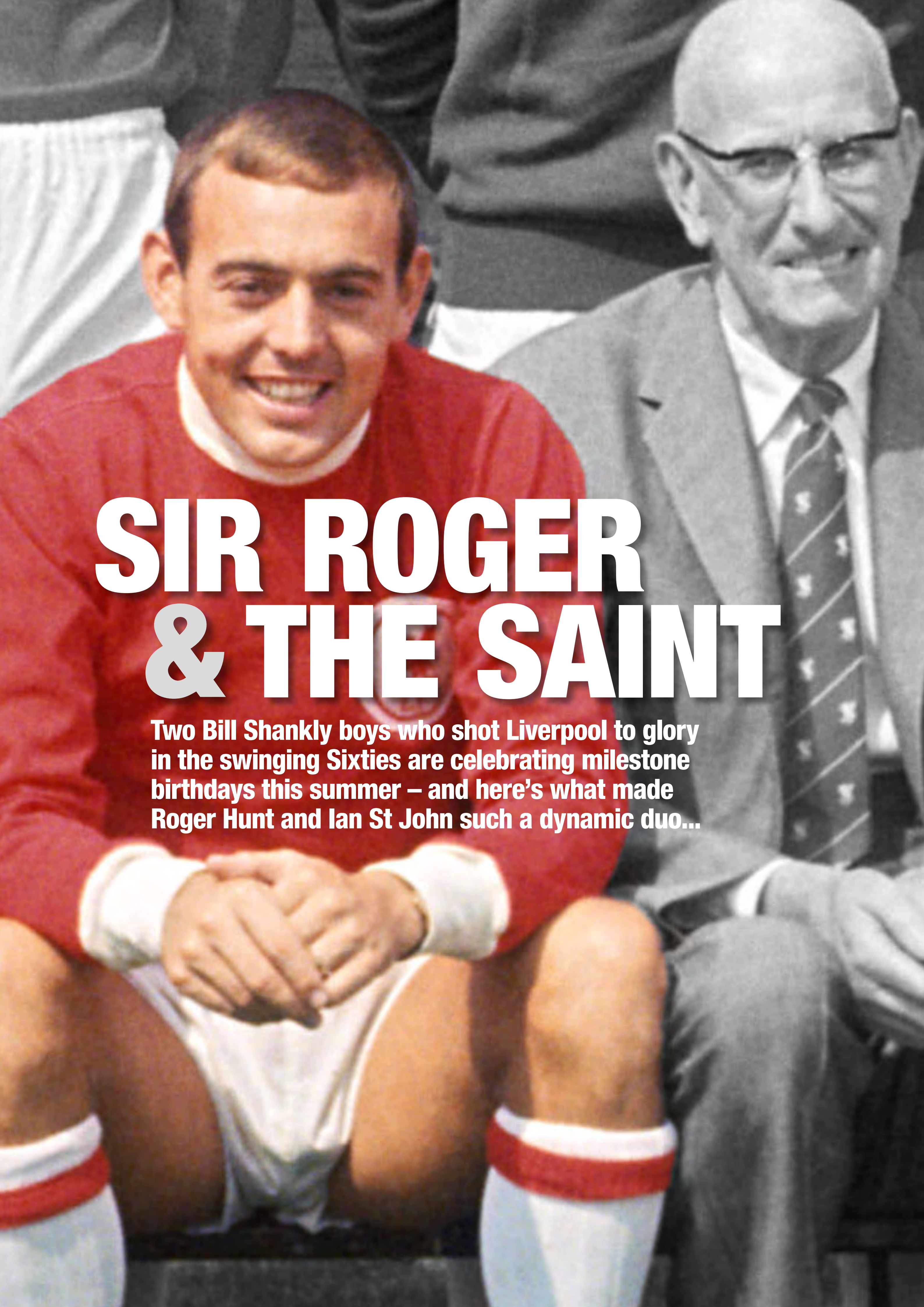
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SIR ROGER & THE SAINT

Two Bill Shankly boys who shot Liverpool to glory in the swinging Sixties are celebrating milestone birthdays this summer – and here's what made Roger Hunt and Ian St John such a dynamic duo...

Roger Hunt and Ian St John both turn 80 this summer, on 20 July and 7 June respectively. Where have all the years gone?

Six decades have now passed since Roger, the modest Lancastrian with the unerring eye for goal, was signed by Phil Taylor for Liverpool Football Club – three years before Ian, the livewire Scot, was lured south of the border by Bill Shankly to join him in the red jersey.

Fifty-three years since both men scored at Wembley as Liverpool finally won that first, elusive, mythical FA Cup in the days when, by some stroke of cosmic serendipity, the city of Liverpool had become the centre of the universe to a soundtrack of Beatlemania and the Spion Kop, Ee-aye-addio and *She Loves You*.

The duo shared a Reds dressing-room for pretty much all of the Swinging Sixties, eight years from the summer of 1961 to the winter of 1969 when Hunt bid farewell to Anfield, St John departing 18 months later.

If Roger was worshipped by Kopites as the sharpshooter of Shankly's barnstorming team, he was also as much a heart-throb as local crooner Billy Fury with whom he shared the same bequiffed hairstyle.

Not that the modest Lancastrian ever let it go to his head: two hundred and eighty-six goals in 492 appearances, and hardly a hair out of place all along. He was LFC's top-scorer for an incredible eight consecutive seasons (1961/62 through to 1968/69) and registered 12 hat-tricks along the way. Ian Rush eventually overtook him for goals scored in all competitions, but Roger's total of 245 in the League is unlikely ever to be beaten. In the club's first tilt at the European Cup in 1964/65 he scored in every round up to and including the infamous semi-final with Inter Milan, and he was part of England's legendary World Cup-winning team – Hunt's medal from 1966 is also in The Liverpool FC Story museum at Anfield.

SIX DECADES HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE THE MODEST LANCASTRIAN AND THE LIVEWIRE SCOT SIGNED FOR LIVERPOOL FC

The Saint got his share of European goals, too – ten in 32 appearances – but he will always be remembered for his Wembley winner in that historic FA Cup final against Leeds United in May 1965. The opening 90 minutes had failed to produce a goal, so extra-time was played in the final for the first time since 1947.

Three minutes into it, Liverpool half-back Willie Stevenson picked out full-back Gerry Byrne whose cut-back was headed home by Hunt. But Leeds levelled before the change-around through Billy Bremner's fine strike.

On 111 minutes, however, came the moment that would confer hero status upon St John as he met winger Ian Callaghan's cross to win the match with a diving header.

The previous season, 1963/64 (only their second back in the big time), the Reds had taken the top-flight title by storm, unequivocally the first step on the road to greatness.

The Saint scored 21 league goals his own that season, and when he and several of his team-mates gathered at Anfield just recently



Both youngsters arrived at Anfield in the days before the all-red kit





Training together at
Melwood in January 1962



in 2014 to celebrate the 50th anniversary, he talked about his partnership upfront with Hunt.

"Our styles of play just married. Mine was dropping off a bit. People talk about the game today as if it'd only just been invented, but Alfredo Di Stefano was dropping deep 50 years ago [for Real Madrid]. If I was being marked by a defender the boss would say to me, 'Take him for a walk, son', and it suited Roger. He never told Roger to track back. 'You stay up there, son', he'd say."

Always the out-and-out goalgetter, Hunt had joined Liverpool aged 20 when they were still a mediocre Second Division side, from non-league Stockton Heath (a club near Warrington), after a recommendation from a Cheshire-based football scout called Harry Mooney.

In a 2009 edition of the club magazine, Harry recalled: "I was refereeing Stockton Heath in a match against ICI [a team from the local chemical company]. They had this big lad, who was very strong, upfront and he broke through the defence and scored two similar goals before half-time. I thought he looked a very good player. He was unselfish and had plenty of speed.

"I went into the dressing-room at half-time and said: 'What's your name, son?' He said: 'Roger Hunt'. I asked him how come no-one had picked him up and he told me his dad was a haulage contractor and that he regularly drove a wagon for him.

"I asked if he drove on a Saturday and he said he did sometimes. I told him I thought he was a good player and asked whether he would like to join Liverpool. 'Oh, I'm a Liverpudlian', he said, 'that's my team!' I rang up [LFC club scout] Tom Bush



SHANKS TOLD ST JOHN TO 'TAKE THE DEFENDER FOR A WALK' WHILE HUNT WOULD STAY UPFRONT

and he sent Bill Jones to watch him the following week.

"He came down and asked me what this lad was like. I said: 'You'll see'. Sure enough, he played centre-forward and after a while he banged one in. 'Goodness me', said Bill, 'you've found one there'. By half-time he'd seen enough so he went into the dressing-rooms, found Roger and said: 'How would you like to join Liverpool?' Roger said: That would be my heart's desire but I've never been approached'. Bill said: 'Well you have now."

That was November 1958 and Hunt was eventually handed a first-team debut by Phil Taylor in September 1959, against Scunthorpe United at Anfield. He scored in a 2-0 win.

"We were one-nil up when we got a free-kick around the hour-mark," he'd remember. "[Inside-forward] Jimmy Melia spotted me and played a short pass into my stride and I looked up and hit it instinctively. I knew it was in as soon as I struck it and I can't describe how good it felt to see it smash in off the crossbar. It wasn't in front of the Kop, but it made me feel so much more confident for the rest of the game.

"It was a big moment for me but there weren't many celebrations afterwards. I had a cup of tea and luckily enough my father had been at the game so I managed to get a lift back home with him!"

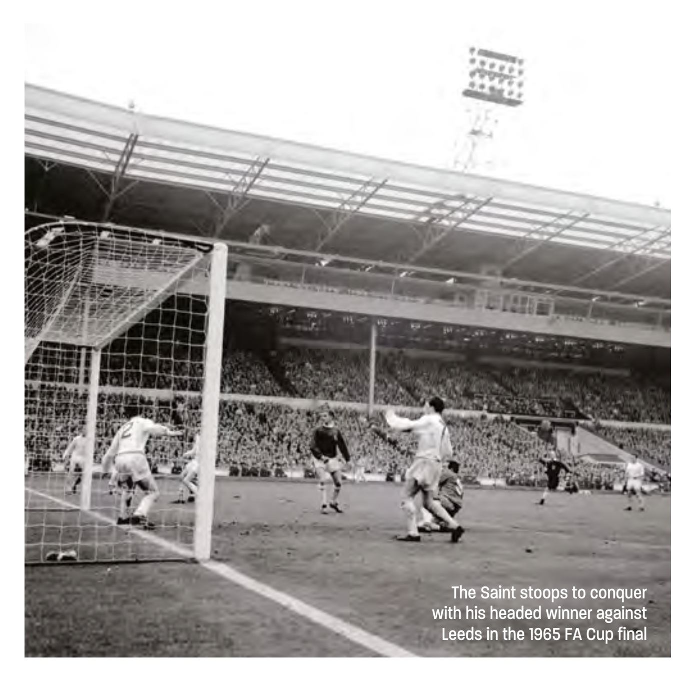
Roger would score 23 goals in that debut season which saw Bill Shankly replace Taylor as boss in December and the Reds finish third in the old Second Division. The following season, 1960/61, he found the net another 19 times as Liverpool again took third-place.

In May 1961 he was joined at Anfield by St John, but only after Shankly had hounded Liverpool FC directors into signing the feisty and fearless young striker from Motherwell. They got their man for a record fee of £37,500, Shankly later recalling: "I said to Mr Sawyer [Eric, the club's finance director] that [St John] wasn't just a good centre-forward, he was the only centre-forward in the game."

A week later Ian made an immediate impact by scoring a hat-trick on his debut in a 4-3



Then and now: Saint, Roger and Ron Yeats celebrating the 1964 title



The Saint stoops to conquer with his headed winner against Leeds in the 1965 FA Cup final

defeat to Everton in the Liverpool Senior Cup final at Goodison Park, in front of a crowd of 51,669. It was the first time he'd line up with Hunt in a Liverpool jersey.

In July that year Ron Yeats signed for the Reds from Dundee United. As it happened, Shankly had wanted to sign the duo while he was manager of Huddersfield Town but the Yorkshire club could not afford to pay their transfer fees.

Shanks: "They were both 23 and I said to Mr Sawyer: 'You sack me if they can't play – I'm telling you now, I'll stake my life on it'. And I said to Mr Reakes [Sidney, another club director]: 'These players will not only win us promotion, they'll win us the FA Cup as well'."

Sure enough, in the 1961/62 campaign the Reds roared back to the top flight after eight years in the wilderness, with Hunt scoring 41 goals in as many games and St John netting 18 in his own impressive debut season. The year 1962 also saw the release of a single by an American pop group, The Routers, entitled *Let's Go*. The Spion Kop at Anfield, like no other football crowd had ever done before, adopted the song's infectious clap-and-chant and changed the title to 'St John'.

Ian was described once by Shankly as "crafty and cunning" and he certainly had an edge to his game – behind Steven Gerrard, he is joint-second in the list of Liverpool players to be sent-off the most, having been red-carded on three occasions.

In 1962/63 both forwards reached the 20-goal mark in all competitions as Liverpool consolidated their place in the First Division with an eighth-placed finish. Then came the title-winning season and 31 Hunt goals (including four and two assists in a 6-1 home win over Stoke City) to St John's 21. The FA Cup win of 1964/65 was the highlight of a season in which the duo shared 48 goals with Hunt scoring 37 of them. Then came another title triumph in 1965/66 featuring 29 for Hunt and ten for St John.

Ever unassuming, Roger once said of his formative years with Liverpool: "I knew perfectly well that I wasn't an out-and-out natural, the sort who can make a ball talk, so it was down to me to compensate for it in other ways. I made up my mind that

IN 1962 THE KOP STARTED THE ST JOHN CHANT THEN DUBBED HUNT 'SIR ROGER' AFTER THE 66 WORLD CUP

We've done it! Hunt (no8) and St John (no9) at Wembley

Ian presents an award to Roger last November

if I didn't succeed at Anfield then it wouldn't be for the lack of determination. From the first day I threw myself into training, ran and tackled for everything and practised my ball skills at every opportunity."

The summer of 1966 was the pinnacle of Hunt's career, although his contribution to England's World Cup success is occasionally overlooked. He played in five games at the finals tournament on home soil, scoring three goals. Arguably he would have been more popular nationally had he not taken the place of Jimmy Greaves, undoubtedly a great goalscorer but also the darling of Fleet Street.

England manager Sir Alf Ramsey was vindicated in his choice, however, and Harry Mooney remembered that "after the final in 1966, Alf Ramsey said that without Roger Hunt England wouldn't have won the World Cup because against Germany in the final he broke the defence up to make room for Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters to score the goals."

The Kop was in no doubt either, and it was after the World Cup that they 'knighted' their hero with the chant "Sir Roger Hunt, Sir Roger Hunt, Ee-aye-addio Sir Roger Hunt!"

The latter half of the 1960s was not quite as successful but Hunt particularly continued to deliver in front of goal: 19 in season 1966/67; 30 in 1967/68; and 17 in 1968/69 as the Reds finished runners-up behind old foes Leeds. He added another seven goals in the opening months of 1969/70 before, aged 31 and less regularly in the side, he moved to Bolton Wanderers. In turn St John spent the summer of 1971 playing in South Africa before signing for Coventry City.

The pair remain friends. Late last year St John was honoured at the O2 North West Media Awards in Manchester to mark 38 years in the broadcast industry. It was Hunt who presented the award but Ian insisted: "This man should be getting all the accolades going for what he did, not only for Liverpool but his country. To be a member of the only England team that's won the World Cup, and then there's the goals he scored for Liverpool, it's absolutely incredible. He's been sensational."


Cheers lads!

In turn Hunt has always paid tribute to the Scot's work-rate. In his 1969 autobiography he explained: "Not surprisingly Ian was immediately popular with our fans and he has remained so. I have played alongside him for hundreds of hours, in all sorts of conditions and he is one of the finest forwards in the game. At first he was mainly a striker, but as our tactics changed he has become a link-man – and he can do both wonderfully well."

Shankly, for his part, once summarised the talent at his disposal thus: "I don't like to distinguish between the players I had: there were so many. Ian St John and Ronnie Yeats were the foundations of Liverpool – never mind anyone else! And then there was Roger Hunt, who drew admiration from me the moment I saw him."

The fans were – and still are – just happy that both players graced the hallowed Anfield turf in the same era.

Happy Birthday to Sir Roger and The Saint!

THE BIG FAT



1 **Who did the Reds play in their final pre-season friendly on 5 August 2017, where was it, and what was the score?**

2 Mohamed Salah scooped three Premier League player of the month awards – but which team-mate got the season's first such honour for August 2017?

3 **Six different players captained Liverpool last season – who were they?**

4 In Liverpool's first Premier League at Anfield, against Crystal Palace on 19 August 2017, who created more chances (three) and had more touches (134) than any other Reds player on the day?

2017/18 QUIZ

5 **Apart from Mo which other two members of the current first-team squad have scored on their LFC debuts?**

6 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who made his last Arsenal appearance against Liverpool before joining the Reds at the end of August, reportedly turned down which other club to move to Anfield?

7 **In an interview in the matchday programme for the home game against Burnley, which Reds legend did club CEO Peter Moore describe as "a giant of a man, square jaw, hair perfect, 'casey' in his hands coming up the steps of the old Anfield tunnel – that's Liverpool for me"?**

8 There were two Liverpool hat-tricks in the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League – scored by who and against whom?



9 **Liverpool goalkeepers saved two penalties in the 2017/18 Premier League – against whom?**

10 What rather unexciting record was set when the Reds drew nil-nil with Manchester United at Anfield in October?

11 **Two documentary feature films about legendary Liverpool FC Scots were released in October and November – what were their titles?**

12 Against which country did Liverpool's Rhian Brewster score a hat-trick in the Under-17 World Cup semi-finals in India?

13 **Ahead of a trip to face his old club in the Champions League who told the matchday programme: "I live for Liverpool, I love Liverpool, every time I pull on that shirt I fight to win for Liverpool"?**

14 Dominic Solanke was introduced as an England substitute against Brazil for his first senior cap, but which fellow Red was handed a full debut by Gareth Southgate in that same Wembley friendly?

15 **Can you put names to the faces of the 19 Liverpool FC legends that appear (along with a young competition winner) on the Dream Scene artwork by Jamie Cooper to commemorate the club's 125th anniversary – pictured above?**

16 Also on that fabulous canvas is a subtly-placed reference to the LFC anthem You'll Never Walk Alone. Can you spot it?

17 **Name the clubs that these five ex-Reds were playing for last season: (a) Suso (b) Emiliano Insua (c) Maxi Rodriguez (d) Martin Skrtel (e) Joe Cole**

18 Against whom did Daniel Sturridge make his last appearance of the season for Liverpool?

19 **Following the thrilling 3-3 draw with Arsenal at the Emirates in December how many times had Arsene Wenger managed the Gunners in games against Liverpool: (a) 33 (b) 43 (c) 53?**



20 To which country did Mo and Sadio travel to attend the African Player of the Year awards ceremony before Liverpool's FA Cup third-round tie with Everton in January?

21 What do you get if you add together the shirt numbers of Trent Alexander-Arnold and Ben Woodburn?

22 Who was top-scorer for Liverpool Ladies in 2017/18?

23 Which two Liverpool players were sent off in matches last season?

24 "I wasn't fortunate to know him personally but I was shown a clip of him on YouTube recently where he got stopped on the street by a news reporter and it told me all I needed to know about the type of person he was: humble and down-to-earth." About whom was Jordan Henderson talking in his skipper's column in the matchday programme for the Premier League game v Manchester City?

25 Name all the goalscorers from both sides in that stupendous 4-3 win over City in January...

26 Who was managing Swansea City when the Reds played them home and away in the Premier League in the space of 27 days?

27 The LFC matchday programme for the FA Cup fourth-round tie against West Bromwich Albion featured tributes to which two footballing greats who had passed away in January?

28 How many penalties did Liverpool win last season in all competitions, and how many were successfully converted?

29 **Having topped their group in the UEFA Youth League, whom did Steven Gerrard's Liverpool Under-19s side play in the next two rounds?**

30 Andy Robertson and which team-mate made their Champions League debuts in the 5-0 win at FC Porto in the last-16 first leg?

31 **Which two strikes by Mo Salah won the BBC *Match of the Day* goal of the month award in December and February respectively?**

32 What bid-tastic event took place inside Anfield's Main Stand on Thursday 22 February 2018, with a donation from the proceeds made to the Liverpool Former Players Association via LFC Foundation, to support a local charity of their choice?

33 **Against which side did midfielder Emre Can score his last goal in a Liverpool shirt?**

34 What was statistically significant about the 2-0 home victory for the Reds over Newcastle United in March 2018?

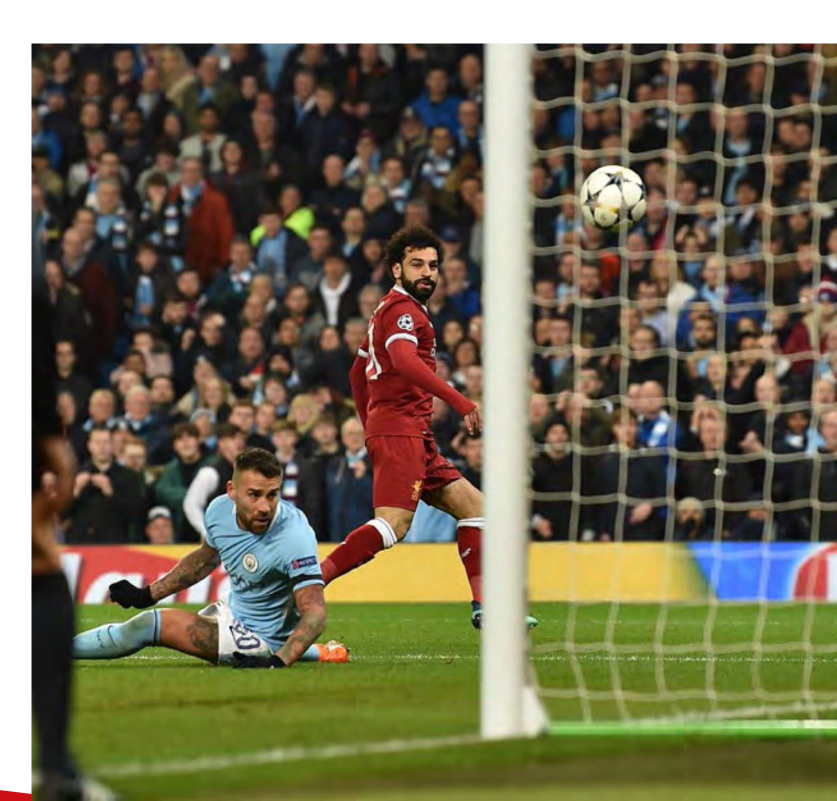
35 **Defender Casey Stoney left Liverpool Ladies towards the end of the season to take up which new role?**

36 The Liverpool FC matchday programme hired a four-hoofed pundit for its Champions League issues – to quote our Cilla, what's his name and where does he come from?

37 **While the Reds were hosting FC Porto in the second leg of our round-of-16 tie, where were Real Madrid defending a 3-1 first-leg lead?**

38 When the ex-stars of Liverpool and Bayern Munich drew 5-5 in the LFC Foundation Legends Charity Match at Anfield, who grabbed a last-gasp equaliser for the hosts?

39 **Which 90-year-old Liverpudlian legend, a good friend of Bill Shankly and frequent visitor to Melwood in the 1960s and 70s, died in early March this year?**





40 Mo Salah scored home and away versus Manchester City in the Champions League quarter-finals – but against which other two English teams had he previously scored in Europe, for Fiorentina and FC Basel?

41 After the Man City tie which former Reds defender tweeted: "Freaking brilliant this @andrewrobertso5 Keep going mate!! Loving it!"

42 Which former Liverpool assistant-manager was back at Melwood for an LFCTV show which premiered in early April?

43 Who were Liverpool playing on Grand National day on 14 April 2018?

44 The Reds conceded one own-goal in the Champions League last season – whose head did the ball ricochet off?

45 Following last season's two Premier League draws with Everton and the FA Cup win over the Toffees, how many derbies have Liverpool now gone without losing: (a) 7 (b) 17 (c) 27?

46 Who made his first start of the season for Liverpool in the goalless draw at Goodison Park?

47 When Danny Ings scored in the 2-2 draw at West Brom in April it was his first senior goal since October of which year?

48 The Reds recruited a first-team physiotherapist at the start of the season, and a new medical rehabilitation and performance manager at the end of the campaign – their names?

49 Only two teams kept more clean-sheets in the Premier League last season than Liverpool's total of 17 – and they were...?

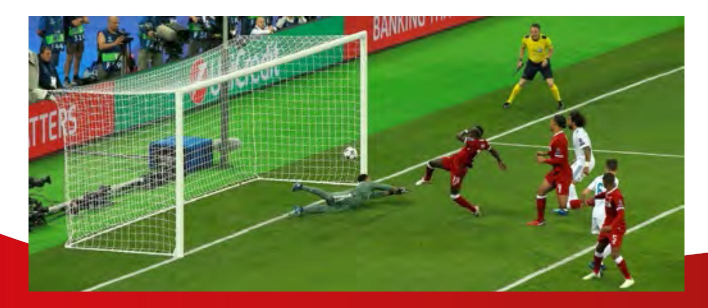
50 Which two Liverpool Ladies stars were honoured at the club's end-of-season Players' Awards on Thursday 10 May 2018?

51 How many times did Liverpool score three or more away from home in the Premier League?



52 Whose record did James Milner break with his nine Champions League assists in one season?

53 Who played the most minutes in the Premier League for the Reds, with 2,921: (a) Mohamed Salah (b) Roberto Firmino (c) Georginio Wijnaldum?



54 And which Liverpool player had the most Premier League touches of the ball in 2017/18?

55 Sadio Mane's strike against Real Madrid in the Champions League final took Liverpool's goal-count in the competition (not including the Hoffenheim qualifiers) to how many?

56 Finally, name the Scouse musician who entertained fans at Shevchenko Park before the Kiev final and – massive bonus-point – the Italian disco duo who recorded the original 1985 hit that morphed into *Allez! Allez! Allez!*

ANSWERS:

1. Athletic Club Bilbao, in Dublin's Aviva Stadium, and it was 3-1 to Liverpool; **2. Sadio Mane**; 3. Jordan Henderson, James Milner, Emre Can, Philippe Coutinho, Simon Mignolet and Dejan Lovren; **4. Debutant Andy Robertson;** 5. Sadio Mane and Virgil van Dijk; **6. Chelsea**; 7. Billy Liddell; **8. Philippe Coutinho v Spartak Moscow (home) and Sadio Mane v FC Porto (away);** 9. Simon Mignolet saved against Leicester's Jamie Vardy (away) and Loris Karius saved v Tottenham's Harry Kane (home); **10. It was the first time there had ever been four successive draws between the two rivals;** 11. Shankly: Nature's Fire, and Kenny; **12. Brazil;** 13. Alberto Moreno; **14. Joe Gomez**; 15. Bob Paisley, Jürgen Klopp, John Houlding, Bill Shankly, Tom Watson, Alex Raisbeck, Steven Gerrard, John Barnes, Kenny Dalglish, Billy Liddell, Jordan Henderson, Elisha Scott, Ian Callaghan, Roger Hunt, Emlyn Hughes, Jamie Carragher, Ian Rush, Gordon Hodgson and Ray Clemence; **16. Carousel record on dressing room table;** 17. Suso was at AC Milan, Insua at VfB Stuttgart, Maxi at Penarol, Skrtel at Fenerbahce, and Cole at Tampa Bay Rowdies; **18. Against Spartak Moscow at Anfield in the Champiowns League on 6 December – he came on as a second-half substitute;** 19. Wenger managed Arsenal 53 times v the Reds; **20. Ghana**; 21. It's 124 (Trent 66 and Ben 58); **22. Bethany England with 14 goals in 21 appearances in all competitions;** 23. Sadio Mane v Man City (away) and Joe Gomez v Sevilla (home); **24. Liverpool's late great goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence;** 25. Oxlade-Chamberlain (1-0), Sane (1-1), Firmino (2-1), Mane (3-1), Salah (4-1), B Silva (84), Gundogan (90); **26. Leon Britton was caretaker-boss for the game at Anfield on 26 December and Carlos Carvalhal was in charge at the Liberty Stadium on 22 January;** 27. Cyrille Regis and Jimmy Armfield; **28. Eight, with four scored (Watford PL away, Spartak Moscow CL home, Everton FAC home and Huddersfield PL away) and four missed (Sevilla CL home, Huddersfield PL home, Maribor CL home and West Brom FAC home);** 29. They beat Manchester United 2-0 in the round of 16 then lost on penalties to Manchester City in the quarter-finals; **30. Danny Ings;** 31. His curled corker at home to Everton and the wriggly wonder against Tottenham at Anfield; **32. A memorabilia auction was held with over 300 items from the old Main Stand going under the hammer to fans;** 33. West Ham United, in a 4-1 victory at Anfield on 24 February; **34. It took the Reds to 200 Premier League goals overall under Jürgen Klopp;** 35. Assistant to England Women's manager Phil Neville; **36. Jürgen Kloppig, currently resident at Freshfields Animal Rescue;** 37. At Paris Saint-Germain where they duly won 2-1; **38. Norwegian defender Bjorn Tore Kvarme;** 39. Ken Dodd; **40. Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea;** 41. John Arne Riise; **42. Pako Ayestaran;** 43. AFC Bournemouth at Anfield (while Tiger Roll won at Aintree); **44. James Milner in the semi-final second leg against AS Roma;** 45. It's now 17 derbies unbeaten; **46. Nathaniel Clyne;** 47. 2015; **48. Christopher Rohrbeck and Philipp Jacobsen;** 49. Manchester United with 19 and Man City with 18; **50. Gemma Bonner was named Liverpool Ladies player of the Season and midfielder Sophie Ingle was named Ladies Players' player of the season;** 51. Eight times: 3-3 v Watford, 3-2 v Leicester City, 4-1 v West Ham, 3-0 v Stoke City, 5-1 v Brighton & Hove Albion, 4-0 v Bournemouth, 3-3 v Arsenal, and 3-0 v Huddersfield Town; **52. Neymar (2016/17) and Wayne Rooney (2013/14) who both managed eight assists;** 53. It was Mo – Bobby's next with 2,776; **54. Jordan Henderson with 2,350 (next it's Dejan Lovren with 2,089);** 55. It was Liverpool's 41st goal in last season's tournament proper (plus six versus Hoffenheim); **56. Jamie Webster, and Righeira (it's called *L'Estate Sta Finendo*, The Summer Is Ending, and it's on YouTube).**

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

Less than 20

As the boss might say, "This is absolutely not allowed." Two months of intensive LFC research, please, before it all starts again in August.

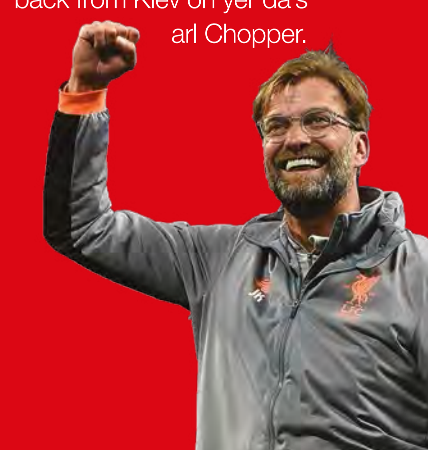
Between 20 and 50

Room for improvement – and you were doing so well until you dozed off during last season's Goodison derby.



All 56 right

Congratulations, although you probably won't be reading this seeing as you're still pedalling back from Kiev on yer da's arl Chopper.



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CLASS

It's a decade since a fine Liverpool team clinched the Reserve League title in style at Anfield under coach Gary Ablett – but what happened next?

WORDS: John Hynes

PETER GULACSI: the Budapest-born goalkeeper was an unused sub for the senior side on 51 occasions. Clearly frustrated with that situation – he also had loan-spells at Hereford, Tranmere Rovers and Hull City – he moved on to Red Bull Salzburg in 2013 before transferring to Red Bull Leipzig of the Bundesliga two years later.

He eventually became first-choice keeper and helped



them finish second in 2016/17 before playing Champions League football last season alongside Naby Keita. Recently turned 28, he's made no secret of the fact that he would one day like to play in England again.





STEPHEN DARBY: an LFC Academy graduate, the right-back was a regular in Gary Ablett's side and wore the captain's armband in place of the injured Jay Spearing.

A senior debut would come his way later in 2008, in a League Cup fourth-round defeat at Tottenham. He also sampled Premier League and European action during his half-a-dozen appearances in a red shirt.

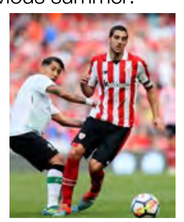
Loan-spells with Swindon Town, Notts County and Rochdale followed before he joined Bradford City on a

OF 2008

permanent deal in 2012. Five years there included a League Cup final appearance in 2013 before Stephen moved on to Bolton Wanderers. Just recently he married England Women's captain Steph Houghton.

MIKEL SAN JOSE: now established in La Liga with Athletic Bilbao, he made his 300th appearance for the club last year and has also played for Spain. But in 2008 he was still settling into life on Merseyside after arriving from Bilbao the previous summer.





Even at that point he was comfortable operating in defence or a holding midfield role, but it was not enough to get him in to the first team.

However, he still looks back on his Liverpool FC spell (it concluded in 2010) fondly. "Being surrounded by world-class players and coaches who helped every player improve, it was very important."

RONALD HUTH: a powerful centre-back and no relation to Robert of the same surname, he'd been purchased from Tacuary in his native Paraguay in 2007, while he was also the holder of an Italian passport thanks to his grandfather.

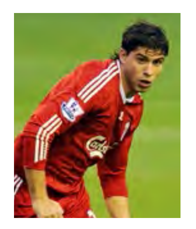
Although not the quickest, he could certainly handle the physical element of English football. But it was inevitable that his contract with the





Reds would not be renewed, and in 2009 he returned to his homeland and Tacuary before joining Italian side Vicenza on loan. After a series of moves – both temporary and permanent – he is now playing for Sarmiento in Argentina.

EMILIANO INSUA: Argentinian left-back who'd arrived from Boca Juniors in 2007. He always stood out at reserve-team level and his fine form for Gary Ablett's team led to him eventually making the move into




Rafael Benitez's squad. He played 62 times for the Reds first team – scoring a solitary albeit stunning goal away at Arsenal in a League Cup fourth-round tie.

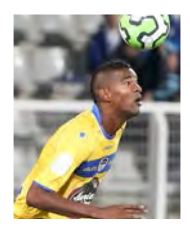
Insua was even selected for Diego Maradona's Argentina team, but he would join Galatasaray on loan in 2010 before leaving for Sporting Lisbon on a permanent basis the following year. Now plays for VfB Stuttgart.

NABIL EL ZHAR: earlier in the 2007/08 season the Moroccan attacker had marked his full senior debut with a cracking goal in a League Cup fourth-round tie against Cardiff City at Anfield. So unexpected was his appearance and subsequent impact that night, his name wasn't even featured on the back of the matchday programme.

For a short spell during the following season he was a regular off the bench under Rafa Benitez but that was as good as his Liverpool career got. Faded away from the first-team scene and transferred to Levante in 2011. Since then El Zhar has moved on to Las Palmas and Leganes in Spain.




DAMIEN PLESSIS: a hugely impressive first team debut away at Arsenal in April 2008 had many people suggesting the French central midfielder could be set for a big future at Anfield. Instead, he would fail to progress and left the club in 2010 with only eight senior appearances and a solitary goal to his name. Since then he's spent time in the French, Swiss, Portuguese and Swedish leagues. His brother Guillaume also enjoyed a stint on Merseyside when he signed for Everton in 2005 but failed to play a first-team game for the Toffees.




LUCAS: with Jay Spearing ruled out through injury, Lucas – just concluding the end of his maiden Liverpool FC season – was happy to be drafted in for the game with Aston Villa. He would of course become a fan favourite in the first team and by the time he departed from the club in the summer of 2017 he'd made 346 appearances and skippered the side. Now with Lazio in Italy's Serie A, he surprisingly scored in three consecutive outings in 2017/18 and is again a fans' favourite, winning the club's player of the year award.



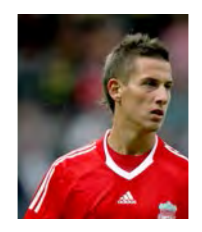

RYAN FLYNN: the slightly-built Scottish midfielder had been an FA Youth Cup-winner with the Reds in both 2006 and 2007, and he was clever in possession and had an eye for goal. But he never made the step-up to the first team.

Instead he returned to his homeland to join Falkirk in 2009 before then coming south again with Sheffield United. For the Blades he scored a memorable winning goal in a shock FA victory over Aston Villa on the way to the semi-finals in 2014. Now back in Scotland with St Mirren.

JORDY BROUWER: when the tall, rangy Dutch centre-forward left Ajax to move to Liverpool in 2007, coaches at the Amsterdam club expressed reservations that the transfer might have come too soon.

So it proved. Brouwer did act as the perfect foil for Krisztian Nemeth – his hold-up play and ability to win aerial duels created plenty of space for the Hungarian – but it became clear that he was never going to be a senior Red, especially as the main centre-forward at the time was a certain Fernando Torres. He's spent recent seasons in the lower leagues of Dutch football.



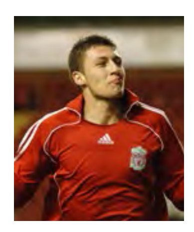




KRISZTIAN NEMETH: undoubtedly the star man of Ablett's side. Quick and clinical in front of goal, it seemed only a matter of time before the Hungarian got a first-team chance. But a series of injuries – including a fractured cheekbone picked up while on loan at Blackpool – curtailed his progress and he moved to Olympiakos in 2012.

Following on from Greece he's enjoyed playing spells in Hungary, the Netherlands, Qatar and North America's MLS with Sporting Kansas City and current side New England Revolution. He's also become a regular in the Hungarian national team.



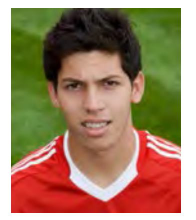

ANDRAS SIMON: substitute replacing El Zhar. Capable of playing out wide or upfront, he'd arrived at the same time as fellow countryman Nemeth but failed to make a major impact at reserve-team level. He left the club by mutual consent in 2010 after spending some of the previous season on-loan with Cordoba in Spain. Now plays in the second tier back in his Hungarian homeland.




CRAIG LINDFIELD: sub on for Nemeth. The owner of a degree in sports journalism, the Scouser currently plays for FC United of Manchester. He'd been the main goal-scorer in the Liverpool Youth Cup-winning teams of 2006 and 2007 but Nemeth's form meant he wasn't a regular in the reserve side of 2007/08.

Lindfield did score a cracking winning goal for the first team in a pre-season friendly victory over Crewe Alexandra after being set up by Robbie Fowler, whom he hugged ecstatically while celebrating.

DANI PACHECO: sub for Brouwer. Just 17 at the time of the reserve-





title success, for a long while it was felt he would be the next player to progress in to the first team. Signed from Barcelona, Pacheco was calm in possession and displayed neat passing, but his LFC career concluded with 17 appearances and no goals.

After various loans, including a spell at Norwich City, he returned to Spain in 2013 to sign for Alcoron. He's now with Getafe (in greater Madrid).

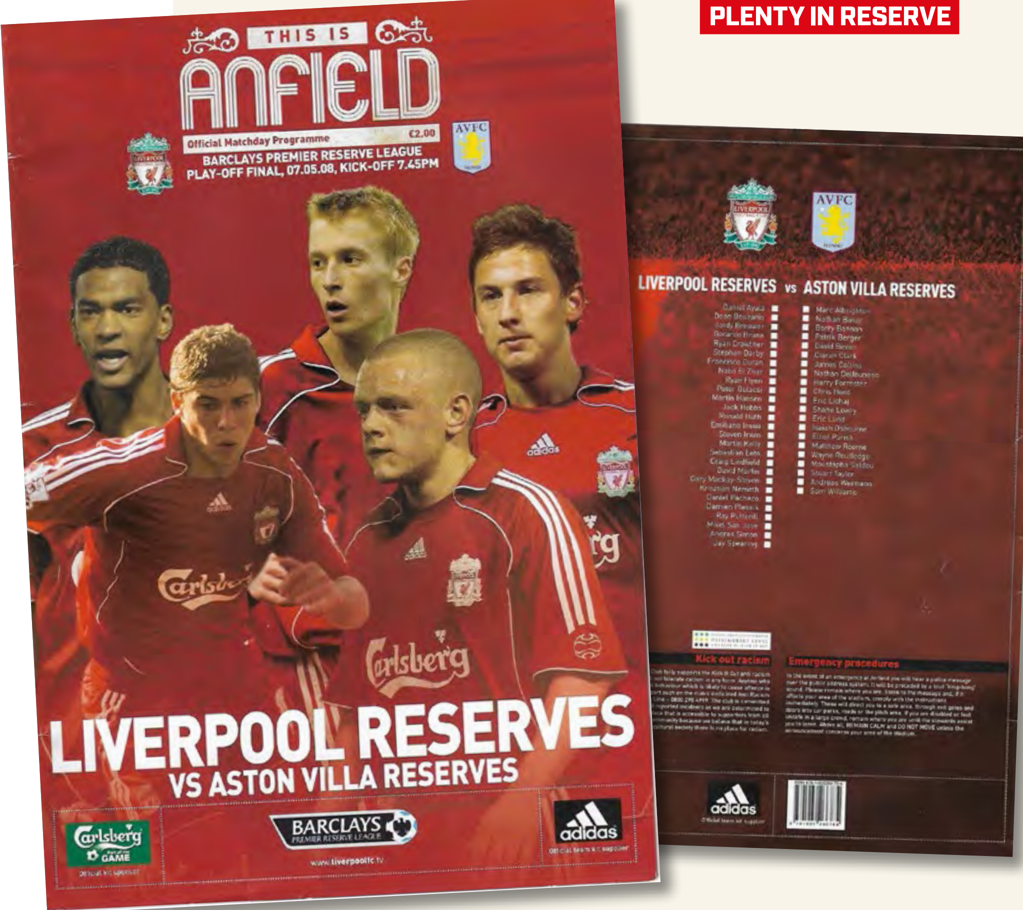
GARY ABLETT: as an accomplished centre-half he won two top-flight titles and an FA Cup with the Reds before moving 'across the park' to neighbours Everton, with whom he again won the FA Cup – the only man to do so with both Merseyside clubs.

At the final whistle against Villa he said: "The most pleasing thing is that we had to tough it out. There were times when we were really under the cosh but with a bit of fortune and some good defending we managed to come through it.

"It was a smashing game of football and I couldn't be more happy with them. You can see how much it means to them by the way they're carrying on in the dressing-room!"

His death in 2012, aged just 46, shocked and saddened every connected with both the Reds and Blues. Recently a new student apartment block in Liverpool city-centre was named in his honour.





"The Kop was in full voice"

The Liverpool Echo match report from May 2008: "Liverpool Reserves capped an excellent season by winning the national league title thanks to a richly-deserved victory over Aston Villa at Anfield last night.

"Northern League winners Liverpool met Southern League champions Villa in a one-off clash to decide who would be crowned the country's best reserve team outfit, and it was the Reds who took the honours in a match in which Gary Ablett's young side again displayed their rich potential.

"First-team boss Rafa Benitez looked on as Liverpool recorded an ultimately convincing victory against a Villa side with far more experience, although the final scoreline did slightly flatter the hosts.

"Not surprisingly, it was Hungarian starlet Krisztian Nemeth who gave Liverpool the lead after just ten minutes. The 19-year-old has fast become a favourite of regular reserve-team watchers thanks to his eye for a goal and his awareness in and around the box.

"Both of these qualities were in evidence when he took possession on the edge of the Villa box and stroked home a wonderful left-footed finish to give visiting keeper Stuart Taylor no chance.

"Nemeth will rightly take the plaudits for what was an excellent strike, but both Nabil El Zhar and Jordy Brouwer also deserve credit for the roles they played in the move that led up to the goal.

"The lead could have been short lived, though, as just three minutes later Marlon Harewood – one of six players with first-team experience on display for Villa – shot narrowly over after Liverpool's back-four allowed the former West Ham man far too much space on the edge of the box.

"But, aside from that effort, it was Liverpool who were making all the running during the opening exchanges, with Damien Plessis controlling central midfield and Nemeth and El Zhar linking well in attack.

"Little has been seen of El Zhar since he scored a fantastic 30-yard effort against Cardiff City for the first team but he certainly enjoyed his latest outing at Anfield in a performance which was full of energy and imagination.

"Liverpool were having things pretty much their own way but there were a few danger signs that over confidence could be creeping in and so it proved when Villa came close to equalising twice in as many minutes.

"First, Chris Herd hit the post after a sloppy Liverpool throw-in resulted in a Villa breakaway which could have proved so costly had the striker's


RESERVES

RESERVES LAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS TITLE

LIVERPOOL RESERVES 3
ASTON VILLA RESERVES 0



“But it was Nemeth who was most delighting the fans and his ability to spot an opening was again in evidence as he struck a powerful effort from all of 30 yards which Taylor did well to parry.

It was end-to-end stuff, with Villa desperately seeking the equaliser that would get them back into the game and Liverpool looking for a second goal to take it away from them. But it was the Reds whose wish was granted as teenage Dutch striker Jordy Brouwer calmly slotted home after 66 minutes to give Liverpool a two-goal lead.

“After opening the scoring in the first half, on this occasion Nemeth was the creator with a slide-rule through-ball which gave his strike-partner an opportunity he was not going to pass up.

“Liverpool were enjoying themselves at this stage and Ablett took the opportunity to bring 17-year-old Dani Pacheco on and the former Barcelona trainee wasted little time in showing just why he is so rated as such an outstanding prospect with a delightful through-ball to set up the Reds’ third goal.

“Lucas – who had volunteered to take part after both Ray Putterill and Jay Spearing were ruled out through injury – was the beneficiary and the Brazilian gave Pacheco’s defence splitting pass the finish it so richly deserved.

“Finding themselves three goals behind with the clock ticking down, Villa had nothing to play for apart from a consolation goal but to their great credit they kept plugging away and Gulacsi had to be alert on a couple of occasions to deny them.

“The 7,500 crowd which turned out on a balmy May evening clearly enjoyed themselves with the Kop in full voice largely thanks to the non-stop singing of the youngsters who congregated at the back of the stand during the second half.

“Both Benitez and Ablett had been at pains to point out before the game that winning was not the be-all-and-end-all. The most important thing was for Liverpool’s young reserve side to continue their progression and put themselves in the frame for places in the first-team squad.

“But winning is a habit which should always be encouraged, especially when there is a national title at stake, and thanks to last night’s victory, Liverpool can at least boast one piece of silverware this season.”

finish been marginally more accurate. Next, Mikel San Jose did particularly well to clear an effort from Shane Lowry off his own goal-line after Reds keeper Peter Gulacsi had failed to hold a cross to the back-post.

“From being totally in command, Liverpool were suddenly finding themselves under mounting pressure, to the clear concern of Gary Ablett, who bellowed instructions from the touchline in a bid to get his players focused once more. But as the interval approached they took control again and ended the first half in the ascendancy and with their one-goal lead intact.

“Villa boss Martin O’Neill was in attendance along with Benitez, but after the recent controversy over Liverpool’s bid for Gareth Barry the rival bosses took the sensible option and sat at opposite ends of the directors’ box. Both managers will have been impressed by the standard of football on display, with Liverpool, in particular, moving the ball about impressively.

“Villa’s threat was always apparent, though, and Moustapha Salifou showed why he is so highly-rated in the Midlands with a curling effort which struck the top of the crossbar.

“The clash of styles made the game an increasingly intriguing spectacle with Liverpool’s pass-and-move approach contrasting vividly with the visitors’ more direct but no less threatening methods. Referee Mark Clattenburg was enjoying an excellent game on his return to Merseyside and his keenness to keep the game flowing was greatly appreciated by the crowd.







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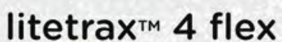
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It's Mighty Red during last season's LFC Foundation Legends Charity Match against Bayern Munich – how many 2005 Champions League winners appeared on the day for the Reds XI? **Answer on page 98**

All the latest news as the club and its players strive to make a difference on and off the pitch

CLUB





HOME IMPROVEMENT

Anfield evolving on, off and under the pitch this summer



While much of the Reds squad, including some new faces, returned to training at the start of July and begin to get back up to speed for the 2018/19 campaign, work at Anfield hadn't stopped over the summer break.

Regulars will often notice small changes in and around the stadium ahead of the first home fixture of a new season and this year there will again be plenty to look out for.

Walking towards the ground, the first visible changes that fans are likely to see will be the updated signage on the Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand, following the club legend's knighthood, as well as the Kop stand's official club store being converted into a 600-capacity bar which will feature live music and large-screen TVs. The Kop roof is also receiving a lick of paint while the last remaining *Anfield Forever* paving stones are due to be laid on 96 Avenue, outside the Main Stand.

Heading inside the stadium, the biggest maintenance job well underway is a 'clean-out' of the Desso Grassmaster pitch installed last summer. The grass-fibre combo surface is being re-sewn on top of over 120 tonnes of sand to ensure optimum drainage and durability. The pitch also contains 80 tonnes of zeolite,



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a form of volcanic ash which holds on to valuable nutrients and keeps the lush verdant green all season.

Elsewhere inside the ground, three additional TV camera positions will be installed to the front of the middle tier of the Main Stand, while work is also being carried out on internal infrastructure to improve access for heavy-goods vehicles.

Liverpool Football Club has meanwhile submitted two planning applications to Liverpool City Council to expand the use of the stadium for music concerts and a wide range of non-football sporting events.

The applications form part of the club's plans to make Anfield a year-round destination by offering even more cultural and sporting events to its supporters, the city of Liverpool and those visiting the area.

The proposal to broaden the uses of Anfield is consistent with Liverpool City Council's aspiration to use music and sport to attract more visitors to the city. Additional events will also bring economic benefits to the city region, more job opportunities for people in the area, and increased revenue for local businesses.

If given the go-ahead, LFC could host up to ten concerts or other events every year at the stadium, mainly outside the football calendar. As part of the planning permission, the club would be allowed to host non-football sporting events such as boxing, American Football or Gaelic football, and would also be permitted to screen a wider range of football matches including Reds away fixtures and international games.

Bringing a wider programme of events to Anfield is not an entirely new concept. The stadium has historically been used to host a range of non-football events, including the 2016 Four Nations rugby league final and the Paul McCartney concert as part of the European Capital of Culture celebrations in 2008.

The planning applications are expected to be considered by the council's planning committee later this summer. If the plans are approved, the new events could take place from later this year with concerts from May 2019.

Andy Hughes, chief operating officer at LFC, said: "The plans we are bringing forward would provide the city's residents with increased entertainment opportunities for music and sporting events whilst at the same time supporting Liverpool's vision to attract more visitors to the city. Our proposals not only support the city's ambitions, but showcase Anfield as a destination and will support local businesses and jobs in the area."

Local residents and fans can find out more information on the proposals by visiting **www.anfieldstadiumevents.co.uk**. The planning applications can be viewed on Liverpool City Council's website at **www.liverpool.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control** where residents and fans can formally comment on the proposed plans.





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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Rounding up the wide-ranging local work that Liverpool FC pursues with pride

Liverpool Football Club has released an overview in numbers of the diverse and immensely fulfilling work that has taken place in the community over the last season, 2017/18.

A host of projects and initiatives are implemented through the club's official charity, the LFC Foundation, and the LFC Red Neighbours community programme.

The LFC Foundation aims to create life-changing opportunities for children and young people in Merseyside and beyond, and it does this through the delivery of its own programmes plus Premier League programmes, and by working in partnership with three local charities and non-profit organisations.

Red Neighbours was launched last year and specifically focuses on improving the lives of all those living in and around the Anfield area (L4, L5 and L6) through four main areas of need: food poverty and education, creating memorable experiences for young people, physical activity, and the elderly community.

CEO of Liverpool FC, Peter Moore, says: "Fundamentally we're a football club, we strive for success on the pitch, but we certainly take our responsibilities off the pitch very seriously too. These numbers are a great reflection of the incredible work that is going on in our local communities thanks to the dedication of our LFC Foundation and Red Neighbours teams.



Red Neighbours

We are passionate about our community. Our official club charity, LFC Foundation, delivers a wide range of programmes and partnerships to create life-changing opportunities for children and young people. We also work with local residents, community groups and schools in and around the Anfield area, as part of our Red Neighbours programme, focusing on supporting some of the key issues in Anfield including: food poverty and education, the elderly, getting the community physically-active and creating memorable experiences for young people.



"Numbers are one way to sum up how these initiatives are growing season on season, but they don't reflect the positive impact and the smiles they create every day – long may it continue!"

Through the LFC Foundation and Red Neighbours the club has continued to build close relationships with Merseyside schools, in particular 25 that neighbour Anfield. The club's community initiatives have provided educational programmes, sports sessions and half-term sports camps, as well as memorable experiences through the donation of match tickets and meet-and-greets with the first team.

The LFC Foundation's partnerships with other organisations, including Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Into University, have funded innovative projects that will have a lasting legacy by improving the lives of young people in Merseyside and beyond.



The numbers in full…

- We continued to work closely with all 25 schools local to Anfield Stadium, to provide fantastic experiences for local kids.
- We delivered 70 community sessions each week.
- We filled 152,000 kids places at our community programmes across Merseyside.
- 1,100 free Premier League match-tickets were donated to local kids.
- A further 845 local kids experienced a game in style and watched from an executive box, thanks to donations from LFC partners.
- 840 local kids enjoyed our Champions League screenings at Anfield.
- 1,768 meals were provided to local families thanks to matchday foodbank donations.
- 450 free Christmas lunches were served up for local pensioners.
- 700 free breakfasts were provided to local people during the school holidays.
- 680 local kids met first-team players.
- 330 local pensioners attended our monthly social events at Anfield.
- 410 local people joined our 'walking football' sessions.
- 120 LFC staff volunteered in the local community.
- And for the sixth year we proudly supported Liverpool Pride.



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QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p17: The Kenny Dalglish Stand was officially opened ahead of last season's Premier League fixture against Manchester United on Saturday 14 October 2017; **FOOTBALL p17:** Naby's RB Leipzig were knocked out of the 2017/18 Europa League quarter-finals by eventual finalists Marseille, having first appeared in last season's Champions League group stages; **CLUB p87:** Eight 2005 Champions League winners played in the 2018 Legends Charity Match: Jerzy Dudek, Jamie Carragher, John Arne Riise, Xabi Alonso, Steven Gerrard, Vladimir Smicer, Luis Garcia and Dietmar Hamann.



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